

On Sunday we followed the Lord's deliverance of Samaria in 2 Kings 6:24–7:20, seeing how sin leaves us helpless and how faithfully God accomplishes His word. We considered the greater salvation Christ has won by bearing our curse and rising from the dead. His finished work calls us to repent, trust His promises, and enjoy the mercy we could never earn. Like the four men who discovered the abandoned camp, we have received good news that we are responsible to share with others.

Monday: When We Cannot Save Ourselves

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 6:24–29

The cry from Samaria's wall comes from people who have reached the end of themselves. Food is gone. Families have turned upon one another. When a woman appeals to the king, he has no help to give. These horrors fulfill the covenant warnings God had given Israel. His people have refused His word, and their rebellion has borne bitter fruit.

This passage also helps us recognize our helplessness as sinners before God. We can change habits, repair some wrongs, and appear respectable to our neighbors. We cannot erase our guilt or give ourselves spiritual life. Paul describes us apart from Christ as dead in sin (Ephesians 2:1). We need a Savior who can accomplish what we cannot.

Jesus came to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). He took the judgment we deserved, becoming a curse for us so that we might be reconciled to God (Galatians 3:13). We come to Him with nothing that could purchase His

favor. He receives us by grace, on the strength of His own saving work.

Perhaps you are carrying the memory of a sin you cannot undo. Perhaps you are discouraged by a pattern you have tried to overcome through determination alone. Bring it honestly to Christ. Confess what you have done and ask for His Spirit's help to turn from it. The Lord who forgives His people also supplies the grace they need to obey Him today.

Reflection Questions

1. Where have you been relying on your own goodness to quiet a guilty conscience?
2. What sin do you need to confess plainly to the Lord today?
3. How does Christ's willingness to bear your curse give you confidence to ask for His help?

Prayer

Merciful Father, I confess that I cannot cleanse my own heart or undo my sin. Thank You for sending Your Son to bear the curse in my place. Forgive my pride and teach me to depend upon His finished work. By Your Spirit, help me turn from the sin I confess and walk in obedience today. Amen.

Tuesday: Rend Your Hearts

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 6:30–33

The king wore sackcloth beneath his royal clothing. When he heard what had happened in the city, he tore his garments in grief. Yet his next words were a threat against Elisha's life. His sorrow was real, but it had hardened into anger against the Lord's prophet. Even in his misery, he resisted the God whose mercy he needed.

We should be slow to examine the king without examining ourselves. We may regret that an angry word damaged a friendship while continuing to defend the anger itself. We may want relief from the consequences of dishonesty while keeping part of the truth concealed. Our sorrow needs to reach the sin we have committed against God.

We should also be careful about assuming that every affliction is punishment for a particular sin. Yet any trial can become an occasion to examine ourselves before the Lord. Hardship often reveals resentments, fears, and misplaced loyalties that we scarcely noticed when life was easier.

God does not leave us to face these discoveries without hope. Paul writes that godly grief produces repentance leading to salvation (2 Corinthians 7:10). Through Jesus Christ, forgiveness is offered to sinners who turn to Him. We can tell the truth about ourselves because our Savior has already borne the judgment our sins deserve.

If the Lord brings a particular sin to mind today, name it honestly in prayer. If you have wronged someone, seek forgiveness without rehearsing excuses. Ask God to give you a willing heart for whatever obedience repentance requires. His mercy gives us courage to return to Him.

Reflection Questions

1. When your sin brings painful consequences, what do you most want God to change?
2. Has a recent disappointment exposed bitterness, blame, or an unwillingness to listen?
3. Is there someone from whom you need to seek forgiveness without defending yourself?

Prayer

Father, You see the things I hide beneath my sorrow and my excuses. Forgive me for blaming others when I need to confess my own sin. Thank You that the blood of Jesus is sufficient for everything I bring into the light before You. Give me a tender conscience and the courage to make right what I can. Teach me to return to You with trust in Your mercy. Amen.

Wednesday: Hear the Word of the Lord

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 7:1–2

Tomorrow, Elisha said, flour and barley would be plentiful and affordable. Nothing within Samaria suggested that such a change was possible. The people

were starving, the enemy remained outside, and the king had no answer. Nevertheless, the Lord had spoken. His promise would stand because He had the power to accomplish it.

The king's officer measured that promise by what he could imagine. Even windows opened in heaven seemed insufficient to him. We can understand how desperate circumstances narrow our expectations. Yet our inability to see a way forward tells us very little about what God is able to do. He sees what we cannot see and rules over what we cannot control.

The one-day promise in this passage belonged to Samaria at that moment. We must not turn it into a timetable for our own relief. Christ has given us promises that remain true through prolonged suffering: His presence, sufficient grace, and resurrection on the last day (Matthew 28:20; 2 Corinthians 12:9; John 6:40). We can pray boldly for deliverance while resting in what He has actually promised.

Consider the burden that has occupied your thoughts this week. Bring it before the Lord as plainly as you can. Then take one of Christ's promises and consider what it means for that burden. His presence means you face it with His help. His sufficient grace means you may depend upon Him for today's obedience. His promise of resurrection gives you hope that reaches beyond the outcome you presently fear.

Reflection Questions

1. What situation have you begun to regard as beyond God's power or care?
2. Have you confused something you deeply desire with something God has promised?
3. Which promise of Christ can help you face today's responsibilities with greater trust?

Prayer

Lord God, my circumstances often seem more certain to me than Your promises. Forgive my unbelief and teach me to listen carefully to Your Word. Thank You for the presence, grace, and everlasting hope You have given me in Jesus Christ. Help me ask boldly for Your help and trust Your wisdom while I wait. Amen.

Thursday: A Victory Already Won

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 7:3–7

Four hungry men set out toward the Syrian camp hoping to survive. They carried no weapons with which to rescue Samaria and had no plan for defeating its enemy. Yet when they reached the camp, they found it abandoned. The Lord had caused the Syrians to hear the sound of an approaching army, and they had fled. Deliverance was accomplished before the starving city knew it.

This account helps us appreciate the good news of Christ's finished work. Jesus bore our sins at the cross and rose bodily from the grave. His resurrection was already true before His followers heard the news. Their fear could not undo His victory. They were called to believe what God had accomplished for their salvation.

Our assurance rests upon that same completed work. Faith receives the Savior who has already died and risen again. When faith feels weak, we may return to the facts of the gospel: Christ offered Himself for sinners, conquered death, and calls us to come to Him. The forgiveness He purchased remains sufficient even when our feelings are unsettled.

There may be much in your life that you cannot resolve today. Begin your prayers by giving thanks for what Christ has accomplished. Thank Him for bearing your guilt and opening the way to the Father. Then bring Him the concerns that remain. You approach God through a living Savior whose saving work is complete and whose care for His people continues.

Reflection Questions

1. When you feel spiritually discouraged, where do you usually look for assurance?
2. How does Christ's completed work steady you when your feelings change?
3. What can you specifically thank Him for before bringing today's requests?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for bearing my sins and rising from the grave. When my faith is weak, remind me of the sufficiency of Your sacrifice. Keep me from measuring Your willingness to receive me by the strength of my feelings. Help me approach the Father with gratitude and confidence through You. Amen.

Friday: This Day Is a Day of Good News

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 7:8–11

The four men ate, drank, and carried away treasure from the abandoned camp. After so much hunger, there was food enough to satisfy them. But the city was still starving. Eventually they recognized their responsibility: “We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news” (2 Kings 7:9). Their neighbors needed to hear what they had discovered.

Christ gives His people blessings to enjoy: forgiveness, adoption, peace with God, and a living hope. Take time to consider what these gifts mean. You may confess sin knowing that Christ has provided forgiveness. You may approach God as your Father. You may face death with the hope of resurrection. As gratitude for His mercy grows, we have more reason to speak of Him.

The messengers who returned to Samaria had little standing in the community. Yet they could tell the gatekeepers what they had found. You may feel awkward speaking about your faith or worry that someone will ask a question you cannot answer. You can still explain the heart of the gospel: Jesus Christ died for sinners and rose again, and everyone who comes to Him in repentance and faith will be saved.

Think of someone with whom you already share ordinary life. Pray for that person by name and ask the Lord for an opportunity to speak. Listen carefully to what is troubling them. Tell them who Jesus is and why you trust Him. Answer honestly where you can, and be willing to learn where you cannot. The good news is worth sharing even when our words are simple.

Reflection Questions

1. Which gift of salvation has brought you particular comfort recently?
2. What most often keeps you silent about Christ: fear, distraction, or uncertainty about what to say?
3. Whom will you pray for by name, and when might you have an opportunity to speak with that person?

Prayer

Gracious Father, thank You for the forgiveness, peace, and hope You have given

me in Your Son. Forgive my indifference toward those who have yet to trust Him. Give me love for the person You have brought to mind today. Help me listen patiently, speak clearly, and trust Your Spirit to work through the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Saturday: Do Not Remain at the Gate

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 7:16–20

At the end of the account, flour and barley sell for the prices Elisha announced. God has kept His promise. But His warning has also come to pass. The officer who mocked the Lord's word sees the abundance and dies before he can eat. The chapter closes by reminding us that everything happened according to what God had said.

That ending calls for sober reflection. Familiarity with Christian things can coexist with resistance to Christ Himself. We may know the hymns, value the fellowship, and understand the message while continuing to hold the Lord at a distance. Hearing His promise calls for a response. Will we entrust ourselves to the Savior who speaks?

The warning should lead us toward Jesus. A trembling believer who longs for His help should remember that weak faith can still lay hold of a faithful Savior. Jesus says, "Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst" (John 6:35). His invitation rests upon His goodness. You may come with your questions and fears, asking Him to help you trust His word.

Whether you have followed Jesus for many years or are only now turning to Him, His promise remains the same. Come to Him in repentance and faith. Receive the forgiveness He purchased and rest in His care. As you prepare to worship with the church, ask Him to make you attentive to His Word and thankful for His mercy. He has given us good news to believe, enjoy, and proclaim.

Reflection Questions

1. Are you resting in Christ Himself, or chiefly in your familiarity with church and Christian teaching?
2. What question or fear do you need to bring honestly to Jesus?
3. How will you prepare your heart to hear God's Word with the church?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from hearing Your Word with a closed heart. I come to You with my sin, my fears, and my need for mercy. Thank You for promising to receive and satisfy those who come to You. Strengthen my faith and prepare me to worship with gratitude for all You have done. Amen.