

SITTERS? GETTERS? OR TELLERS? 2 Kings 7:3-9

Int: Syrians had choked Samaria with a siege. Four starving lepers hunkered down in the “no man’s land” between the enemy camp and the city decided to throw themselves on the mercy of the attackers. When they came to the Syrian camp, however, they found it deserted. God had scared away the enemy army. At first the four gorged themselves on goodies and hid piles of loot. Then they realized they should share the food and booty with the starving citizens not a hundred yards away. Within the hour famine turned to feast.

Had someone videoed this event, three selected frames would show these lepers in three different lights. Each frame suggests a different kind of Christian. Some are

SITTERS

Inside the city huddled starving Samaritans. Outside the walls camped the Syrian soldiers. In between, hidden near the city gates, these four lepers just sat!

Churches are full of sitters. The city of this world is under attack by the Dark Lord and his hellish hosts. In “world city” men and women die every day with never a taste of the bread of heaven, never a sip of the water of life. While war rages and the people die, in the middle of it all most Christians just sit! In a class or in the choir, on a committee or in a pew, in an office or behind a pulpit (some preachers sit better standing up). Just sitting!

Can most of what you have done for God lately be described as sitting?

GETTERS

When the four got to the Syrian camp they found God not only saved them from the enemy but also had given an unbelievable abundance of food and goods. The lepers stuffed themselves with the food and hid the fine clothes, silver and gold for themselves. They became getters!

A getter is a sitter who has discovered great treasure in the Christian life and set out to get it for himself. He is better—and better off—than a sitter but is in danger of being only a getter. He digs into theology books, devours DVDs and podcasts, attends conferences by the score, reads the latest blogs and tramps from church to church, getting more and more.

Are you in just one more tent today, eating and drinking spiritual food and hoarding away spiritual treasure for yourself while the poor and hungry starve?

Can most of what you have done for God lately be described as getting?

TELLERS

God had already acted to save Samaria and to give them food and goods for an abundant life. This was an established fact. The lepers knew. But inside the city walls her citizens did not. While the lepers gobbled food and gathered great riches, a scant hundred yards away the people of Samaria lived without hope and died in horror. The city needed the good news. The four realized they must go and tell.

There is sin in silence. “We do not well. This...is a day of good tidings.”

There is danger in delay. “If we tarry some mischief will come upon us.”

“Come, let us go and tell!” That is God’s plan of action for this sin-sieged world. In the city people think there is no hope for them. In the city they are desperate. In the city they live and die without hope. Those who know the good news must go into the city and tell it. Any hungry beggar can tell another hungry beggar where he has found bread!

Can anything you have done for God lately be described as telling?

Con: What will the last few frames of human history show you doing? Sitting? Getting? Or telling?