HOW TO DEAL WITH A NEGATIVE MINDSET

2 Kings 7:3-5

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HOW TO DEAL WITH A NEGATIVE MINDSET

Introduction

• Anything that encourages you to remain where you are is not words of wisdom

  ▪ Don’t come to the end of your life before you realize how close you were to finding a solution or success
Introduction

- God can use anyone once you avail yourself
- If God could do something in the situation of the lepers, then he can surely do something in your life
HOW TO DEAL WITH A NEGATIVE MINDSET

The Text- 2Kgs 7:3-5

- The city of Samaria was surrounded by the Syrian Army
- A donkey’s head was being sold for 25 pieces of silver
- Dove’s dung was being sold for 5 pieces of Silver
- Mother’s were killing their children to eat
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The Text- 2Kgs 7:3-5

Dilemma of the Leprous Men;

1. They were sick:

- Disease of leprosy was regarded as an awful punishment from the Lord. It’s name means “smiting”.
- Like leprosy, sin spreads. Leprosy affected those who were in immediate contact as does sin.
Sin like leprosy brought shame and disgrace upon the individual.

Outside of a miracle from God, the leper would die in their condition. Apart from the work of grace, the sinner is doomed.
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The Text- 2Kgs 7:3-5

Dilemma of the Leprous Men;

Their Condition was;

- Heinous
- Hopeless
- Helpless
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The Text- 2Kgs 7:3-5

Dilemma of the Leprous Men;

2. They were Separated: Vs 3, “and there were 4 leprous men at the entrance…………….”

- No leper could live in a walled city
- Required to have an outer garment torn as a sign of deep grief
- Required to go bareheaded and to cover his beard with his mantle as if lamenting @ his own virtual death
HOW TO DEAL WITH A NEGATIVE MINDSET
The Text- 2Kgs 7:3-5

Dilemma of the Leprous Men;

2. **They were Separated:** Vs 3, “and there were 4 leprous men at the entrance...............”

- Obligated further to warn passers-by to keep away from him by calling out Unclean!Unclean!Unclean
- Not allowed to speak to anyone or receive or return any greeting/salutation since it involved an embrace
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The Text- 2Kgs 7:3-5

Dilemma of the Leprous Men;

- The Leper was cut off from priesthood.
- They lived a shameful, segregated & separated life
- Christians are often separated from God because of our sin!. We are unclean
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The Text- 2Kgs 7:3-5

Dilemma of the Leprous Men;

3. They were starving: Vs 3...and they said one to the other, why sit here and die?
  ➢ Their Condition was hopeless
  ➢ Their Calamity was certain
  ➢ Their choice was obvious (vs 4...now therefore come and let us......................
HOW TO DEAL WITH A NEGATIVE MINDSET
The Text- 2Kgs 7:3-5

Decision of the Leprous Men;

- If we enter the city, the famine is in the city and we shall die there
- If we sit still here, we die also........now therefore come, let us fall unto the host of the Syrians, if they save us alive, we shall live ; and if they kill us, we shall die
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The Text- 2Kgs 7:3-5

Decision of the Leprous Men;

- We see them **Dying**....they were alive but Dead!!!!
- We see them **Dwelling**..Vs 4 and if we sit here, we die also
- We see them **Deciding**...Now therefore come and let us fall
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The Text - 2Kgs 7:3-5

Decision of the Leprous Men;

- We see them **Departing**....let us fall unto the host of the Syrians

- We see them **Depending**. Vs 5, they rose in the twilight......
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The Text- 2Kgs 7:3-5

Discovery of the Leprous Men;

- They discovered Refreshment....Vs 8 the starving lepers found food and drink

- They discovered riches...Vs 8..they carried silver etc

- They discovered Raiment. i.e clothing
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The Text - 2Kgs 7:3-5

Do you know we can go 40 days without food, 4 days without water, 4 minutes without oxygen.

It is difficult to live for 4 seconds without hope.

If you don’t see it, before you see it, you will never see it

A lot of people have given up in life and they are asking themselves, should I go or I should die here
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The Text - 2Kgs 7:3-5

What is important is the description of the lepers. If God could use them, then God can surely use you.

Here are 4 lepers willing to obey God and move to enemy camp regardless of what it cost them

When you obey God’s will, he will surprise you. Anyone who got to where they are was surprised by God
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The Text - 2Kgs 7:3-5

• Reality of life is that, sooner than later, you will get stuck in life

• Biggest challenge is what you do next when stuck and how you climb to the next level

• Many a times, you will be stuck in life until you get angry and say to yourself enough is enough.

• Once you are able to break a certain barrier, life becomes a bit easier
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The Text - 2Kgs 7:3-5

- Some of us are too cautious and very ok with our circumstance

- Breaking barriers is;
  - Deliberate
  - Intentional
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Mindset

Mindset is the way your mind is set.

• Ex. 14:11-12

• Ex 16:15-20

• Num 13:32-33
Mindset of Israel when they came out of Egypt

1. Slave Minded:
   • Unable to act independently, always bound to the control of their slave master.
   • Israel became a nation in bondage/slavery.
   • A slave always owes their identity to their master.
Mindset of Israel when they came out of Egypt

2. Scarcity Minded

Not only was Israel having a slave mentality, they were unable to see abundance.

God instructs them not to overgather manna but they will still go ahead
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Mindset of Israel when they came out of Egypt

3. Simple Minded;

• Israel was unable to deal with difficult issues.

• Simple minded people are unable to handle complex situations
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Mindset of Israel when they came out of Egypt

4. Small Minded;

• Israel was unable to think BIG.

• They described themselves as Grasshoppers

• When you are small minded, BIG things scare you
Mindset of Israel when they came out of Egypt

5. Self Minded;

• Israel was unable to see beyond their personal interest

• When someone is in trouble, everyone is thinking of their own.
HOW TO DEAL WITH A NEGATIVE MINDSET

Mindset of Israel when they came out of Egypt

- If you have a **slave mind**, the whole world is like a **BIG prison**

- If you have a **small mind**, you try and bring everything to your level.

- If you are **self centered**, everyone is your **enemy**
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Mindset of Caleb

- **Num 14:20-24**

  God said, Caleb had a different spirit in the midst of people with slave mentality

- **Josh 14:7-9:**

  Caleb brought words back to Moses “as was in his heart”.
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How Caleb had a different Spirit

- He followed the Lord Wholly
- He Followed his heart
- He followed the big picture
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Mindset

- The brain is a very powerful organ to perceive, analyse & understand things

- The way the mind function is critical to how life functions
HOW TO DEAL WITH A NEGATIVE MINDSET

Mindset

- Titus 1:15-16: If you are in a state of purity, your actions will be pure

- I Cor 13:11-12

- Your state of mind influences your reality.
How to deal with a negative mindset

Mindset

- Every society operates from a standpoint or a worldview.
- Worldview are the lenses a society looks at the world.
- Every human being a worldview out of which we have a mind set.
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Mindset

- Mindset: The way you see the world

- “We don’t see things the way they are, We see things the way we are”
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Mindset

- Mindset is the way you understand reality.

- Mindset is the way you handle situations, opportunities, issues etc. around you.
Mindset

Extreme Mindset

• Fixed Mindset: Mind that is set and doesn’t change

Prov 27:22- Grinding foolishness out of someone

• Double Mindset: Mind that can’t settle on a decision
Mindset
Phil 3:12-15

- Paul admonishes us that, the Christian mindset should not be fixed or double minded but rather a **GROWING MINDSET**

- A mindset that tells you I can do better, I can make it, I can grow etc
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Mindset

- You can have a nation with a fixed mind

- Where in the midst of abundance, we strive to create scarcity

- Where in the midst of blessing we derive a curse
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Mindset
Num: 13:30-33

2 Mindsets
- We are well able – Mindset of Joshua & Caleb Vs 30
- We are not able- Mindset of the 10 vs 31