

Tuesday 24th August 2021

2 King's 7: 9 "Then they said to each other, 'We're not doing right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves. If we wait until daylight, punishment will overtake us. Let's go at once and report this to the royal palace'."

Sometimes we keep good news to ourselves when we should be sharing the joy with others. We can be a little smug in relishing the happiness alone.

The story of the siege of Samaria is a stirring one. King Ben-Hadad of Aram had gathered a large army and tried to starve out the Israelites. In the city food became scarce and expensive and was particularly hard on the poor and the outcast. Those with leprosy were not even allowed inside the gates of the city. They were caught between a rock and a hard place and reasoned they would die whatever they did.

They decided to risk throwing themselves on the mercy of the surrounding army of Arameans and went to their camp only to discover that it had been precipitously abandoned. They set about feasting and looting but suddenly realised that they should be taking the good news of the end of the siege to the city.

We may not be starving or have leprosy but we should be sharing our inner secret of the truth of the Gospel and not hide it away.