

Small Group Study Notes  
2 Kings 6:24-33 & 7:1-20

1. When a donkey's head cost \$160, food is expensive! The reaction of these two women to their hunger is to turn on their kids and literally devour them. Here is selfishness. If you had been there that day what would you have said to those women as they came to the conclusion that it was better for their kids to die rather than for themselves to die?
2. We see the king has on sackcloth which would indicate that he is in a state of humility before God. He is waiting for God to come and save him. But then he cracks and sets out to kill God's spokesman. We know that in fact his suffering will all be over in the morning. No doubt if he had known what the morrow was going to bring he would not have cracked. Rom 5:3 & James 1:2 only make sense if we know that God will bring our suffering to an end one day. Is to say that "some of our suffering will not finish until after death" a cop-out or does it bring real comfort?
3. The aide-de-camp does not believe that God can bring this suffering to an end. He cannot see how the price of food will return to normal overnight. What stories from the bible (pre 2 Kings) would you have point to, to help him see that God could in fact change everything overnight?
4. Samaria is saved by nothing more than a noise (v6). The king and his government could not save the city but God can and does; and with so little effort. We are currently in the middle of an election campaign with our political parties promising to save us from every conceivable ill. In this context how do we express the truth of Ps 124:8 & Ps 118:9 & Ps 146:3-6?
5. The conclusion of the four outcasts that, it would be wrong to keep the food to themselves (v9) has often been used as an illustration of the importance of sharing the good news of what Jesus has done for us. What do you think are the main parallels between us and the lepers?
6. When suffering our attitude will be reflect in one or other of these. We will be like the woman doing whatever it takes to alleviate our suffering and not caring who pays the price. Or we will be like the king angry at God, lashing out at him and any who represent him. Or we will be like the aid de camp laughing at the thought of any thought of a day coming when it will all be over. Or we will be like Elisha knowing that the day of salvation is coming. What is it that makes the difference in these various reactions to suffering?

