

TELLING THE GOOD NEWS · STUDY NOTES

Study 3: Why we share it

For personal study or groups

Your name

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How to use these notes. Watch each part's video on biblehelp.net, or read the text below. Look up each passage in your own Bible and write the answer on the lines. The verses are printed at the back if you need them. At the end there are questions to think about on your own or to discuss in a group.

PART 1

For the glory of God among the nations

The first and greatest reason (Psalm 96; Matthew 28:16–20)

Why share the gospel at all? It matters, because the reason behind what we do shapes how long we keep doing it. If we speak only when we feel like it, we will soon stop. If we speak only when we see results, we will stop even sooner. The Bible gives three reasons. The first and greatest is the glory of God.

1. A new song for all the earth (Psalm 96:1–3). The psalm was sung in Israel, but it calls "all the earth" to sing. In the Psalms a new song is sung when God has done something new to save His people (Psalm 40:3). On the last pages of the Bible the redeemed sing "a new song" to the Lamb (Revelation 5:9). "Proclaim His salvation" uses the Old Testament's own word for bringing good news. And it is to be done "day after day": in ordinary life, not only at special events. And what we proclaim is God's glory: we tell people not only what they need, but how great He is.

1 **Read Psalm 96:1–3**

Who is called to sing, and what are God's people to proclaim, and how often?

See also: Psalm 40:3; Revelation 5:9.

2. God deserves to be known (96:4–5). The first reason to share the gospel is not even the needs of people around us, real as they are. It is that God deserves to be known, loved and praised by everyone He has made. The word for "idols" means worthless things, "nothings". The gods people serve were made; the Lord is the Maker. Every day the Creator is robbed of the honour that is His due, and a Christian who loves God cannot be content with that. There is freedom in this reason: our love can grow cold and results can be slow, but God's glory never changes.

The earth will be filled

We do not yet see all the earth singing to the Lord. But God's purpose is fixed: "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14).

3. The aim of evangelism: worship (96:7–10). The nations are called not only to hear about God, but to "ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name": to acknowledge the glory that is already His. For centuries the nations stood outside; now they are called into His courts, brought near "through the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13). The offering we bring now is ourselves (Romans 12:1) and our praise (Hebrews 13:15). Worship is joy, but also awe. So we tell the gospel not only so that people will be helped, or even only saved, but so that God will be worshipped by people who once ignored Him. And the message begins with God: "The LORD reigns!"

2 **Read Psalm 96:7–10**

What are the nations called to do, and what is the message to be declared among them?

See also: Ephesians 2:13; Romans 12:1; Hebrews 13:15.

4. He is coming (96:11–13). The whole creation sings, because the Lord is coming to judge the earth in righteousness. "He is coming" is said twice. Between His first coming to save and His second coming to judge is the time we live in: the time for declaring His glory among the nations.

5. Sent by the risen King (Matthew 28:16–18). Jesus sent eleven men, "but some doubted": not heroes, and not people who had everything worked out. And He "came to them". The Lord does not wait until we are perfect before He sends us. Before the command comes the claim: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me." It is the authority He won by His death and resurrection. We are not selling an idea of our own; we speak for the King, and the outcome is not in doubt.

3 **Read Matthew 28:16–17**

What does it encourage you to know about the men Jesus sent?

4 **Read Matthew 28:18**

What difference does "all authority" make when you are afraid to speak?

6. One command: make disciples (28:19–20). "Therefore" rests the command on His authority. "All nations" opens the door to every people: Jesus is the only Saviour, for the whole world. Baptism follows believing (Acts 2:41), the public sign of belonging to Christ, into the one "name" of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The main task is to make disciples; going, baptising and teaching describe how it is done. A disciple is not someone who once made a decision, but a lifelong learner and follower of Jesus. We teach and plead, but only the Holy Spirit can make a true follower of Christ. And the task was passed on to everyone who would believe: it is the task of every Christian, not only of pastors and missionaries.

5 **Read Matthew 28:19–20**

What is the one main command? What do "go", "baptizing" and "teaching" tell us about how it is done?

The town crier

In many English towns a town crier rang his bell, called "Oyez!" ("Hear ye!"), and read out a proclamation. He did not make up the message or change it to make it popular. He announced what had been decided, with authority that was not his own. That is what it means to proclaim the gospel.

7. Where we go. "Go" means going towards people, not only waiting for them to come. For most Christians it begins where the Lord has already placed us, in widening circles (Acts 1:8): our home and family; our friends, neighbours and colleagues; those around us of other faiths; and the ends of the earth, through the missionaries we pray for and support. In every circle we need to be available, and intentional.

8. Teaching, and a promise (28:20). New disciples are taught "to obey all" that Christ commanded: to do it, not only to know it; all of it, not only the parts we like; and nothing added of our own. Obedience is not cold: "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15). And the command ends with a promise: "I am with you always." We never go alone.

6 **Read Matthew 28:20**

What are new disciples to be taught, and what does Jesus promise?

9. Where it is all going (Revelation 7:9–10). A crowd too large to count, from every nation, tribe, people and language. Their robes are white because they have been washed "in the blood of the Lamb" (7:14), and they wave palm branches, as for a victorious king. No one in that crowd thanks himself: "Salvation to our God… and to the Lamb!" The mission will not fail, and every time we speak about Christ we have a part in it.

7 **Read Revelation 7:9–10**

Who is in the crowd, and to whom do they give the glory for their salvation?

PART 2

Love for Christ and for our neighbour

The second reason (Matthew 9:35–38; Romans 1:14–17)

1. Jesus went to people (Matthew 9:35). He did not stay in one town and wait to be found. He went through "all the towns and villages", teaching, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing. He taught "in their synagogues", where people already gathered: we too can begin where people already are. And the kingdom He preached is not of this world (John 18:36): it is God's rule over the hearts and lives of His people, entered by repentance and faith.

8 **Read Matthew 9:35**

What three things did Jesus do, and where did He go to do them?

2. Moved with compassion (9:36). Jesus did not look past people; He saw them as they really were, and it moved Him deeply. Their bodies had been healed, but not their souls. They were "harassed", worn out and almost torn, like a sheep caught in thorns, and "helpless", thrown down where they fell. Their teachers had loaded them with rules and left them without hope. Ezekiel had spoken against such shepherds (Ezekiel 34:2), and God had promised a true Shepherd. Now He had come: "The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep" (John 10:11).

9 **Read Matthew 9:36**

What did Jesus see when He looked at the crowds, and how did it move Him?

See also: Ezekiel 34:2; John 10:11.

3. How we see people. Many today have more health, wealth and comfort than any generation before, and yet without Christ they have nothing that lasts. Like Jesus, we must see people as they really are; not excuse their sin; not despise them as if we were better; and have compassion. True compassion cares about the whole person, but above all about the soul. Love that never speaks about Christ is not yet the love of Christ.

4. The harvest and the workers (9:37). The harvest is people, and it is plentiful. A farmer gathers wheat, not weeds, because it is precious: and people are precious to God, who gave His only Son for them. A harvest cannot wait (John 4:35). "But the workers are few." Many are willing to watch; fewer are willing to work. In the Lord's harvest, am I a worker, or a spectator? Nothing replaces ordinary Christians who befriend the people around them, live the Christian life in front of them, and tell them about Christ.

10 **Read Matthew 9:37**

What does Jesus say about the harvest and the workers? Why can a harvest not wait?

5. Pray to the Lord of the harvest (9:38). Jesus' first answer to the shortage of workers is prayer. The harvest is His, and only He can make workers and "send out", a strong word that suggests thrusting them out, because left to ourselves we hold back (Exodus 4:13; Jeremiah 1:6). We should not do nothing except pray, but we should do nothing without praying. "Your kingdom come" is already a prayer for the harvest. And when we pray it, we should be ready to say with Isaiah: "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8). In the next verses Jesus sent out the twelve, after months of learning from Him: an apprenticeship that is ours too.

11 **Read Matthew 9:38**

What does Jesus tell His disciples to do first, and why is the harvest called "His"?

See also: Exodus 4:13; Jeremiah 1:6; Isaiah 6:8.

6. "I am obligated… I am so eager" (Romans 1:14–15). Paul felt that he owed the gospel to everyone, like someone given a gift to deliver: to every people, and to "the wise and the foolish". No one is too clever to need the gospel, and no one is too simple to understand it. He did not choose his hearers by how promising they looked (1 Corinthians 1:27). And he was eager, because he was sure of what he believed (2 Corinthians 4:13), and because his life was not tangled up in other things (2 Timothy 2:4).

12 **Read Romans 1:14–15**

To whom did Paul feel he owed the gospel, and how did he feel about preaching it?

When my boots come back

A young man in the eighteenth century was asked if he would go to Greenland to tell people about Christ. "Yes." "When will you go?" "When my boots come back from the cobbler." That was all he was waiting for.

7. "I am not ashamed of the gospel" (1:16–17). In Rome, the capital of the world's greatest empire, a message about a crucified Jew must have sounded foolish. But the gospel is "the power of God for salvation": not only true, but powerful. "First to the Jew, then to the Greek" is the order God followed in history (Acts 13:46), but the need and the welcome are the same for all (Romans 10:12). The gospel reveals the righteousness we saw in study 2: Christ's righteousness, credited to everyone who believes, received by faith at the start and lived by faith to the end. In the end, the great difference between people is not how good they are, but whom they trust (Habakkuk 2:4).

13 **Read Romans 1:16–17**

Why was Paul not ashamed of the gospel?

See also: Acts 13:46; Romans 10:12; Habakkuk 2:4.

8. Are we ashamed? We can be ashamed of the gospel by keeping silent when we could speak; by telling only the parts people like, and leaving out sin, judgement and repentance; or by blurring it with vague words so that no one could be offended. Paul spoke openly, plainly and boldly.

9. The love behind it all. Our own love for others is often weak. The answer is not to try harder to feel more, but to look at Christ's love for us. "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19); "Christ's love compels us" (2 Corinthians 5:14). The more we know His love, the more we will want others to know it too.

PART 3

A day of good news

The third reason (2 Kings 6:24–7:11; 2 Corinthians 5:10–11)

1. A starving city (2 Kings 6:24–25). The Aramean army, from the kingdom to the north-east with its capital at Damascus, surrounded Samaria, the capital of Israel. A donkey's head sold for eighty shekels of silver, the wages of several years. This was not only bad luck: Israel had turned from the Lord to other gods. The king grieved over the suffering but did not turn back to God. He was sorry for the results, not the cause, and he gave up on God: "Why should I wait for the LORD any longer?" (6:33).

14 **Read 2 Kings 6:24–25**

How bad had things become inside Samaria?

2. God's word, and a scoffer (7:1–2). Elisha announced that by this time tomorrow a seah of fine flour, about seven litres, would sell for a shekel. The king's closest aide laughed: "Even if the LORD were to make windows in heaven, could this really happen?", recalling the flood (Genesis

7:11). He was not only doubting the prophet, but the power of God. "You will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat any of it."

15 **Read 2 Kings 7:1–2**

What did God promise, and how did the officer answer?

3. Four outcasts (7:3–4). The law required people with such diseases to live outside the camp and cry "Unclean!" (Leviticus 13:45–46). These four men were the least valued people in Samaria. Their reasoning was simple: if we stay, we die; if we go to the enemy, we might live.

16 **Read 2 Kings 7:3–4**

Why did the four men decide to go to the Aramean camp?

See also: Leviticus 13:45–46.

4. The deliverance was God's work (7:5–7). The camp was empty, because "the Lord had caused the Arameans to hear the sound of chariots, horses, and a great army". There was no army: God did not need one. The four men did not save the city or fight anyone; the deliverance was done before they arrived. And all night, inside the walls, people were dying of hunger a short walk from more food than they could eat. That is the condition of many people around us. Christ has died and risen; forgiveness is near (Romans 10:8). They will not know, unless someone tells them. We do not save anyone. Our part is to carry the news.

17 **Read 2 Kings 7:5–7**

Who emptied the camp, and what did the four men contribute to the victory?

5. "We are not doing what is right" (7:8–9). The lepers ate first, and there is a lesson in that: as on an aeroplane, put on your own oxygen mask before you help others. Before we can feed others with the good news, we must feed on it ourselves. But then they hid silver and gold

while the city starved. Their consciences woke up, and they gave three reasons that are ours too:

- **It is not right.** Their wrong was simply keeping quiet. Some sins are things we fail to do. God blesses us so that we will be a blessing (Genesis 12:2).
- **It is a day of good news.** The city needed news, not advice. So does the world.
- **It cannot wait.** "If we… wait until morning light, our sin will overtake us." Silence is not neutral: it is a failure to love.

18 **Read 2 Kings 7:8–9**

What did the four men do first, and why did they change their minds?

See also: Genesis 12:2.

6. Passing on the news (7:10–11). They went that same night to the first people they could reach, the gatekeepers, and the news passed from one person to the next. The king at first thought it was a trap, so he sent men to see, and they found it true. Some will be suspicious of the gospel too. The good news can bear checking: it rests on facts seen by real witnesses (study 1). Like a relay race, the gospel has always travelled from one runner to the next. Someone once passed it to you. Who will you pass it to? And God uses unlikely messengers: not the king, the army or the prophet, but four outcasts who only told what they had found.

19 **Read 2 Kings 7:10–11**

To whom did the four men go first, and how did the news reach the king?

7. The judgement seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10–11). Everyone will stand before Christ. For those who trust in Him there is no condemnation, but even believers will give an account. For those who refused Him, it will be a day of judgement. "The things done in the body" include what we left undone, and that includes our silence. Paul spoke of the judgement because it is true, and because he loved people: if you saw someone walking towards a cliff edge in the dark, love would make you call out. And he persuaded openly, with nothing to hide and no tricks or pressure.

20 **Read 2 Corinthians 5:10–11**

Why does Paul try to persuade people, and how does he do it?

8. The officer (7:17–20). The next day everything happened as Elisha had said. The officer was put in charge of the gate and saw it with his own eyes, but the crowd trampled him and he died, "just as the man of God had foretold". Not one word of God failed, neither the promise nor the warning. Many laugh at the gospel and at the idea of judgement, but God's word always comes true: "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts" (Hebrews 3:15).

9. Why we share the gospel: a summary of study 3. For the glory of God among the nations. Out of love for Christ, and for the people around us. And because a day is coming, and today is a day of good news. Let us not be silent, and wait until morning light.

THINK IT THROUGH

Questions for reflection and discussion

1. If you are honest, what usually moves you to speak about Christ, or keeps you silent? How would it change things if God's glory came first?

2. When did you last stop and see someone as Jesus sees them: harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd? Will you pray Matthew 9:38 for them this week?

3. Is there someone you know who is hungry, and does not know where the food is? And who passed the gospel on to you? Thank God for them.

HIDE IT IN YOUR HEART

Memory verse for study 3

Learn this verse by heart this week. Cut out the card and keep it where you will see it.

TELLING THE GOOD NEWS · STUDY 3 · MEMORY VERSE

“Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.”

Psalm 96:3

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“I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11, BSB)

AT THE BACK

The Bible passages (BSB)

1 **Psalm 96:1–3** *[1]Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. [2]Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim His salvation day after day. [3]Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.*

2 **Psalm 96:7–10** *[7]Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. [8]Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering and enter His courts. [9]Worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth. [10]Declare among the nations: "The LORD reigns!" The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity.*

3 **Matthew 28:16–17** *[16]Meanwhile, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain Jesus had designated. [17]When they saw Him, they worshiped Him, but some doubted.*

4 **Matthew 28:18** *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.*

5 **Matthew 28:19–20a** *[19]Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20]and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you.*

6 **Matthew 28:20** *and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

7 **Revelation 7:9–10** *[9]After this I looked and saw a multitude too large to count, from every nation and tribe and people and tongue, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. [10]And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

8 **Matthew 9:35** *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness.*

9 **Matthew 9:36** *When He saw the crowds, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

10 **Matthew 9:37** *Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.*

11 **Matthew 9:38** *Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest."*

12 **Romans 1:14–15** *[14]I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. [15]That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.*

13 **Romans 1:16–17** *16I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, then to the Greek. 17For the gospel reveals the righteousness of God that comes by faith from start to finish, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

14 **2 Kings 6:24–25** *24Some time later, Ben-hadad king of Aram assembled his entire army and marched up to besiege Samaria. 25So there was a great famine in Samaria. Indeed, they besieged the city so long that a donkey's head sold for eighty shekels of silver, and a quarter cab of dove's dung sold for five shekels of silver.*

15 **2 Kings 7:1–2** *1Then Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD! This is what the LORD says: 'About this time tomorrow at the gate of Samaria, a seah of fine flour will sell for a shekel, and two seahs of barley will sell for a shekel.'" 2But the officer on whose arm the king leaned answered the man of God, "Look, even if the LORD were to make windows in heaven, could this really happen?" "You will see it with your own eyes," replied Elisha, "but you will not eat any of it."*

16 **2 Kings 7:3–4** *3Now there were four men with leprosy at the entrance of the city gate, and they said to one another, "Why just sit here until we die? 4If we say, 'Let us go into the city,' we will die there from the famine in the city; but if we sit here, we will also die. So come now, let us go over to the camp of the Arameans. If they let us live, we will live; if they kill us, we will die."*

17 **2 Kings 7:5–7** *5So they arose at twilight and went to the camp of the Arameans. But when they came to the outskirts of the camp, there was not a man to be found. 6For the Lord had caused the Arameans to hear the sound of chariots, horses, and a great army, so that they said to one another, "Look, the king of Israel must have hired the kings of the Hittites and Egyptians to attack us." 7Thus the Arameans had arisen and fled at twilight, abandoning their tents and horses and donkeys. The camp was intact, and they had run for their lives.*

18 **2 Kings 7:8–9** *8When the lepers reached the edge of the camp, they went into a tent to eat and drink. Then they carried off the silver, gold, and clothing, and went and hid them. On returning, they entered another tent, carried off some items from there, and hid them. 9Finally, they said to one another, "We are not doing what is right. Today is a day of good news. If we are silent and wait until morning light, our sin will overtake us. Now, therefore, let us go and tell the king's household."*

19 **2 Kings 7:10–11** *10So they went and called out to the gatekeepers of the city, saying, "We went to the Aramean camp and no one was there—not a trace—only tethered horses and donkeys, and the tents were intact." 11The gatekeepers shouted the news, and it was reported to the king's household.*

20 **2 Corinthians 5:10–11** *10For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive his due for the things done in the body, whether good or bad. 11Therefore, since we know what it means to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is clear to God, and I hope it is clear to your conscience as well.*

Scripture: Berean Standard Bible (BSB), public domain. Quotations keep its American spelling. Like many English Bibles, it often says 'man', 'he' or 'brothers' where it means people in general, men and women alike.

FOR GROUP LEADERS

Study 3: Why we share it

> **Memory verse:** “Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.” (Psalm 96:3). Say it together at the end, and ask who can say it without looking.

Aims

- See from Psalm 96 and Matthew 28:16–20 the first and greatest reason to share the gospel: God deserves to be known and worshipped by all the nations, and the risen King has sent us.
- See from Matthew 9:35–38 and Romans 1:14–17 the second reason: love for Christ, who loved us first, and compassion for people who are harassed and helpless.
- See from 2 Kings 7 and 2 Corinthians 5:10–11 the third reason: a day is coming, and today is a day of good news that must not be kept to ourselves.

Suggested timing (about 100 minutes)

- **5 min** Welcome and short prayer.
- **30 min** Part 1 video (16 min); Psalm 96:1–3, 7–10; Matthew 28:16–17, 18, 19–20, 20; Revelation 7:9–10.
- **25 min** Part 2 video (14 min); Matthew 9:35, 36, 37, 38; Romans 1:14–15, 16–17.
- **30 min** Part 3 video (16 min); 2 Kings 6:24–25; 7:1–2, 3–4, 5–7, 8–9, 10–11; 2 Corinthians 5:10–11.
- **10 min** Reflection questions. Close by praying Matthew 9:38 together.

For a shorter meeting, take one part each week.

Tips

- Begin with the question behind the whole study: why speak about Christ at all? Let the group answer honestly before the first video. Their answers will often be about people's needs; part 1 shows that God's glory comes first, and part 2 that love for people follows from it.
- On Psalm 96, keep the emphasis on God: the aim of evangelism is worship. If the group finds "God's glory" abstract, the test is simple: every day, people give the honour that belongs to God to other things.
- On Matthew 28:19, the study speaks of baptism following believing (Acts 2:41). Keep to the main point of the passage, which is making disciples; study 4 of *Starting out as a Christian* covers baptism more fully.
- "Make disciples" is the one main task. Help the group to see the difference between collecting decisions and helping someone become a lifelong follower of Christ.
- The "circles" (Acts 1:8) help people to think of real names. Give a few quiet minutes for everyone to write down one or two people in their own circles, without sharing them unless they wish.
- On Matthew 9:36, guard against two opposite errors: excusing people's sin, and looking down on them. Jesus did neither.
- Some in the group may feel guilty after part 3. The point of 2 Kings 7 is not to crush anyone, but to wake us up: the deliverance is God's, and our part is simply to carry the news. End with the encouragement that God uses unlikely messengers.
- On 2 Corinthians 5:10, make sure the group sees that for those in Christ there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1); the judgement seat is about giving an account, not about losing salvation.

Answers to watch for

- **Psalm 96:1–3:** "all the earth" is called to sing; God's people are to proclaim His salvation and declare His glory among the nations, "day after day", in ordinary life.
- **Psalm 96:7–10:** to ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name, bring an offering, worship and tremble before Him; the message is "The LORD reigns!"
- **Matthew 28:16–17:** the Lord sent ordinary men, some of whom still doubted; He came to them as they were.
- **Matthew 28:18:** we speak for the King, who has all authority; the outcome does not depend on us, and the One who sends us is with us.
- **Matthew 28:19–20:** the main task is to make disciples; going, baptising and teaching describe how it is done.
- **Matthew 28:20:** to obey all that Christ commanded, not only to know it; and He promises to be with us always, to the end of the age.
- **Revelation 7:9–10:** people from every nation, tribe, people and language; they give all the glory to God and to the Lamb.
- **Matthew 9:35:** He taught, preached the gospel of the kingdom and healed, going to all the towns and villages, and teaching in the synagogues where people gathered.
- **Matthew 9:36:** people harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd; He was moved with compassion, deep in His heart.
- **Matthew 9:37:** people are precious to God, like a harvest to a farmer; and a ripe harvest cannot wait.
- **Matthew 9:38:** to pray first; the harvest belongs to the Lord, who alone can make and send workers.
- **Romans 1:14–15:** to everyone, "Greeks and non-Greeks... the wise and the foolish"; he was eager.
- **Romans 1:16–17:** because the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, revealing a righteousness from God received by faith.
- **2 Kings 6:24–25:** so bad that people paid a fortune for things no one would normally eat.
- **2 Kings 7:1–2:** food would be cheap by the next day; the officer scorned the word of the Lord and doubted His power.
- **2 Kings 7:3–4:** they would die anyway if they stayed; at the enemy camp they might live.
- **2 Kings 7:5–7:** the Lord did; the four men contributed nothing to the victory. They only found what God had done.
- **2 Kings 7:8–9:** they ate, then hid silver and gold; their consciences told them that keeping quiet was wrong, that it was a day of good news, and that it could not wait.
- **2 Kings 7:10–11:** to the gatekeepers, the first people they could reach; it was passed from person to person until it reached the king.
- **2 Corinthians 5:10–11:** because we must all appear before Christ, and Paul knew what it means to fear the Lord; he persuaded openly, with nothing to hide.