

Haf. Metzora

2 Kings 7:3-20

The Gospel of the Lepers

“We are not acting properly – today is a day of good news, yet we remain silent. If we wait until the light of dawn we will be considered sinful.” (7:9)

- **The deliverance was foretold by prophecy.**
- **The enemy has already been defeated, but people are unaware.**
- **The recipient of the miracle was undeserving.**
- **Four witnesses have been provided, but people doubt.**
- **Provision is available for the taking... but it must be taken.**
- **The outcasts are the messengers.**
- **They work at night because they fear judgment in the morning.**
- **They “called” to the gatekeepers.**
- **The doubter delays...**
- **... but the mocker dies.**
- **The truth set the people free.**

“It is in fact rare for repentance to take the form of a sudden, dramatic conversion, and it generally takes the form of a series of small turnings.”

∞ R' Adin Steinsaltz

GOOD NEWS VS DEAD NEWS

Religion has a tendency to replace...

- **...God with theology,**
- **...the Gospel with a formula,**
- **...obedience with an incantation.**

***Faith that embraces God's Word
will be reflected in a life that obeys it.***

בשרה
(b'sorah)
"Good News"

בשר
(basar)
"Flesh"

LEPROSY: A "LIGHT" DISEASE

עור בשרו ← "Skin"
(or basaro)

"skin of his flesh"

אור בשרו ← "Light"
(or basaro)

"light of his flesh"

“Tzaraat is not a physical illness requiring the attention of an ordinary doctor. Rather, it is a disease of the soul.”

✧ R' Zalman Sorotzkin

צָרַעַת - TZARAAT:

- Is humiliating
- Breaks fellowship with the pure
- Has no prescribed treatment
- Is visible to all (generally)
- Nullifies accomplishments
- Affects everyone it contacts
- Is a gift!

“Rather, tzaraat is a Divine signal to the straying soul to return to the way of the Torah, a sublime manifestation of God’s desire to bring the sinner back to Him.”

∞ Nehama Leibowitz

“Leper”

מצרע = 400 = ת = “cross”

עץ מר “bitter tree”

מרצע “awl”

“Everyone carries with them at least one and probably many pieces to someone else’s puzzle. Sometimes they know it. Sometimes they don’t. And when you present your piece which is worthless to you, to another, whether you know it or not, whether they know it or not, you are a messenger from the Most High.”

✎ R’ Lawrence Kushner