

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

Wed. Eve. Bible Study - 10/14/15

Living Successfully In Christ

WHAT TO DO WHEN TROUBLE COMES

1 Samuel 30:1-6 ¹David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it, ²and had taken captive the women and everyone else in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way. ³When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. ⁴So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. ⁵David's two wives had been captured—Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. ⁶David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.

Key Verse: "David was greatly distressed...But David found strength in the LORD his God" (1 Samuel 30 :6)

In this study, which is based on 1 Samuel 30:1-6, we are to consider a period in David's life when he was plunged into great distress and trouble, and we shall see what he did in his time of trouble and how wonderfully the Lord undertook for him. Trouble is no respecter of persons (**Job 5:7 "Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward"; 14:1 "Mortals, born of woman, are of few days and full of trouble."**). Maybe you are passing through a time of trouble now? If so, there is help in this study for you; and if you are not in the midst of trouble today, here is ministry in advance which will prepare you for some future day, for trouble comes to us all, and it is a good thing when we know what to do in a time of trouble. Notice, from 1 Samuel 30:1-6, that:-

1. David's trouble was very real.

There was nothing imaginary about it, as we learn from these verses. How does your trouble compare with his? Does yours have to do with some great loss in your life (verse 1); is it connected with your loved ones (verse 3); is it so great that you have wept until you have had no more power to weep (verse 4)? How real our troubles are! There is nothing imaginary about them, and it is not wrong to weep and to find relief in this way when we are overwhelmed (**John 11:35..."Jesus Wept"**).

2. David was in trouble although he was a child of God.

It is very important for us to notice this. The Lord loved David - look up **Acts 13:22 "After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'"**; yet David found himself in the midst of these very distressing circumstances. Because we are Christians we must not expect immunity from trouble. Think how much the Lord suffered (**Hebrews 13:12**), and how much the apostle Paul endured (**2 Corinthians 11:23-30**)!

Indeed, can you think of one true child of God who has not experienced something of the bitterness of trial and testing? We are not to think that God does not love us when trouble comes across our path - look up **1 Peter 4:12** "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you."

3. The Lord permitted David's trouble.

He allowed it to happen. He permitted distress to come into the life of His child, just as He did with Joseph (*Genesis 39:20*); Jeremiah (*Jeremiah 37:15*); Peter (*Acts 12:5-6*); and John Bunyan - and just as He has with many of His servants today. When Job was overwhelmed with distress, his faith was so firmly established in the Lord and in the fact that God is sovereign, and that nothing had happened in his life, or would happen, without God's gracious permission, that he was able to say - **Job 13:15** "Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face" The Lord could have prevented Job's trouble, and He could prevent all our troubles; but He does not do so, and the biggest lesson that He wants us to learn is to trust Him where we cannot understand the "whys" and the "wherefores" of His dealings with us. *Romans 8:28* is true, and it always will be true.

4. David's trouble was in a very real sense his own fault.

This is very solemn, for David had backslidden, and no child of God can do that and escape God's chastening. It seems clear that the Lord allowed trouble to come into David's life in order that he might be corrected - look up **Psalm 55:19** "God, who is enthroned from of old, who does not change—he will hear them and humble them, because they have no fear of God.", and compare **Deuteronomy 8:2-3** "Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.³ He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD." and **Hebrews 12:6** "because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.". Saul, whose story is told in this same First Book of Samuel, threw off the authority of God, as David did, "but in the two cases we see the difference between judgment and chastening.

In the case of Saul, his life and career were terminated as the punishment for his offences; in the case of David, however, the rod was lifted to correct - not to destroy; to bring him back, not to drive him away forever; to fit him for service, not to cut him asunder." It may be that your trouble is your own fault? - look up **Genesis 42:21** "They said to one another, "Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come on us.", and notice the words "that's why this distress has come upon us". God only permits the testings and trials of life for His glory and always for our good.

5. David's trouble was really a blessing in disguise.

You say, "How can this be, with wife, home and friends gone?" It was a blessing in disguise because in verse 8 we are told that David enquired of the Lord; and any experience which drives us to the Lord is worthwhile - look up **Psalm 119:67** **Before I was afflicted I went**

astray, but now I obey your word" and Hebrews 12:11 "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." The one thing that God is seeking in your life and mine is a complete surrender of ourselves to Him. He wants us to love Him and His will, and to trust Him completely.

What did David do in his time of trouble? Verse 6 tells us he "found strength in the Lord his God." It is good to find strength in the Lord personally, but sometimes we need to help others to find this strength. How can we do this?

1. **Remind yourself that you belong to Him.** "David found strength in the Lord his God." Rest upon the assurance of this personal relationship.
2. **Recall His past mercies** - the wonderful way in which he has undertaken for you, led you, blessed you, provided for you and used you in the past (1 Samuel 7:12)
3. **Turn to Him** - in confession (1 John 1:9), and in petition (Psalm 34:6); humble yourself before Him and look to Him alone for deliverance (Psalm 69:17).
4. **Enquire of Him** (verse 8). Ask Him what you should do in your trying situation.
5. **Obey Him** (verses 9 and 10). David obeyed, he "continued the pursuit".
6. **Trust Him.** At the end of verse 8 we read that the Lord promised David complete victory, and when he went forth (verse 9), he trusted the Lord to fulfil His word. All God's promises are made to us in order that we may take Him at His word and trust Him to fulfil in us and for us that which He has promised - look up Psalm 37:5; Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 11:28; Romans 8:28; Philippians 4:19.
7. **Acknowledge His goodness** (verse 23) - look up Psalm 9:9; 27:5; 46:1; 143:11; and Nahum 1:7.