

David Encouraged Himself In The Lord - 03/24/19

TEXT – 1 Sam. 30:6 *And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.*

INTRO – The soul of all the people was grieved. Hebrew, "was bitter." Their great sorrow is pathetically described in [1Sa 30:4](#). But, as is often the case with those in distress, from grief they turned to anger, and sought relief for their feelings by venting their rage upon the innocent. Left almost friendless in the angry crowd who were calling out to stone him, **he encouraged himself in Jehovah, his God.** Literally and summoned the priest to ask counsel and guidance of God by the ephod. **Depression might last for a couple hours, or for years. It might be brought on by a specific traumatic experience or a broken relationship, or it might be less traceable and more difficult to explain.**

I. David's Despair – Do you think you have troubles?

Two great obstacles for every Christian are depression and discouragement.

- David was hiding from Saul who wanted to kill him.
- He joined himself to a Philistine King who gave him Ziklag
- He was spared fighting against Israel
- He returned to Ziklag to find it burned by the Amalekites
- He lost his family
- He lost all his possessions
- His 600 men wept bitterly and wanted to stone him

1 Sam. 30:4 *Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.*

David was in great despair with circumstances he couldn't control.

Comparable to the life of Job

1Ki 17:5-7 *So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. 6 And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook. 7 And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.*

1Ki 19:1-4 *4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.*

1 Ki 22:48 *Jehoshaphat made ships of Tharshish to go to Ophir for gold: but they went not; for the ships were broken at Eziongeber.*

Thus far what David had done was in his own flesh

II. David's Decision

- David could have considered suicide
- He could have seen a psychiatrist
- He could have checked with his parents but
A. He turned to God vs. 6 Psalm 121:1

Psa 42:1-5 *As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. 2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? 3 My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God? 4 When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday. 5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.*

He encouraged himself in the Lord

- It required some effort on his part
- He recognized his limitations
- His trust was in God not himself
- Courage is only possible in the face of fear.
B. He inquired of the Lord

He was willing to do whatever God revealed to him.

C. He called the priest Abiathar

Shall I pursue? Shall I overtake them?

The priest was God's representation on the earth – Today the church is God's representation.

It was not until Bethel that Jacob learned to trust God

III. David's Divine Reward

A. David's family is restored

- Retrieved his family
- His possessions
- The spoil of the Amalekites
- The respect of his soldiers
B. God's promise is fulfilled
- In 3 days David is anointed king
- God gives David favor in Judah

C. David's trust now is in Jehovah God and His word

Many of us stand and look, and look, and look, and see nothing but disaster We must look past them; and see beyond them our God.

CONCL – Heb 13:5-6 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

2 Co 12:9 *And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*