

One Trouble Follows Another

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2 Samuel 20:1-2 And there happened to be there a man of Belial, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjaminite: and he blew a trumpet, and said, We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tents, O Israel. So every man of Israel went up from after David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri: but the men of Judah clave unto their king, from Jordan even to Jerusalem.

- I. Just when it seemed that everything was going to be all right there appears another rebellion in the kingdom.
 - A. We all entertain a hope for that time in our lives when we live in victory and triumph with no troubles to vex us.
 - B. But that is an elusive dream that does not happen in this life.

Job 5:7 Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

Job 14:1 Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.

Ecclesiastes 2:17 Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

- C. Many times the end of one trouble is the beginning of another.
 - D. Trouble is brought to us by the sins of people.
 - 1. By the sins of older men, older women, young men, younger women, children, servants, and masters.
 - 2. Without the sins of people there would be no trouble in this world.
 - 3. How strange it is then, for people to resist so strongly the preaching of righteousness!
 - 4. To teach, train, and encourage people to live holy lives and resist temptation and sin, would certainly lower the level of trouble in our lives.
 - 5. But the only cure is shunned and condemned almost unanimously by the human race, and even more so by those who claim to be saved from sin.
 - E. Even those who live holy lives will endure much trouble in this world because of the sins of others – even the perfect man Jesus, did.
 - F. So our focus should not be on trying to have a trouble-free life, but how to cope with and deal with the troubles that find us.
 - G. David is an example to us, as are many others in the Word of God, but Jesus is the best example we have.
 - H. Some troubles we can do something about and some we just have to leave with God and wait for Him to remove them or give us grace to endure them.
- II. David returns in triumph with the apparent support of the whole country.
 - A. But it quickly becomes apparent that the support of the majority is very shallow indeed.
 - 1. In the previous verse they all said, “We have ten parts in David...”
 - 2. Now they say, “We have no part in David.”
 - 3. One day it is “Hosanna to the king!” the next it is “Crucify him!”

- B. Here is a lesson for us when it comes to relying on the approval and favor of others – don't!

Psalm 118:8-9 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

Psalm 146:3 Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help.

Proverbs 24:21 My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:

- C. Most people condition their favor and approval solely upon what you do for them and how much you help them to indulge their egos and satisfy their selfish pride.
 - 1. If they even think that you are slighting them in the least they will turn on you like these people did on David.
- D. Most people are so easily swayed that a son of Belial like Sheba, full of hatred and selfish ambitions can make them follow him and forsake the good king that God had given them, even though they had just made the same blunder with Absalom.
- E. The people who praised Jesus as He entered Jerusalem on the donkey a few days before now cry for his death.
- F. So if we are wise and have any proper understanding of how life works in this sinful world, we will expect the same thing if we would live for God and do right.
- G. We should quit seeking for our place in this world, because we do not have one that is secure and free from trouble and treachery of others.
- H. There will always be those in the family, in the church, in the nation – who will betray us, turn against us, curse us, and take the side of our enemies against us.

Psalm 146:5 Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God:

- III. David deals with the situation as it is.
 - A. He does not fall into despair and depression and discouragement about all the people who have turned against him.
 - B. He does not wallow in self-pity about how they are returning evil for his good.
 - C. He does not act in anger or vengeance because of their foolishness and ingratitude.
 - D. He does not despair thinking about all that has been done being in vain.
 - E. He sends Amasa to assemble the men of Judah to go and take care of Sheba and his rebellion.
 - 1. But once again, he is disappointed when Amasa does not come at the appointed time.
 - 2. Amasa has let David down by not obeying his orders.
 - F. So David does not tarry, but sends another to deal with the situation because it is urgent and must not be allowed to go on any longer.
 - G. David is let down with Joab, once again, when he kills Amasa because David had demoted Joab and put Amasa in his place.
 - H. Even in his trying to deal with the rebellion he finds trouble with many of his trusted and faithful men.
 - I. But even though there was trouble and his faithful friends did not do exactly what he told them to, the rebellion was put down.
 - J. The difference was that these men were loyal to David, even if they did not agree with him and do all that he said.
 - K. There are friends like that, who will stick with you , no matter what.

- L. They may cause you trouble, too, but they will remain faithful to you and not take the part of your enemies.
- IV. So the main lesson from these Scriptures is that we should recognize the fact that trouble is part of our life in everything we attempt to do.
- A. We may wish everything were easy, but we must learn a fact of life that everything is hard.
 - B. We may think that God will clear the way before us, but we must learn that we will have obstacles to deal with ourselves.
 - C. We may think that the will of God is the path of least resistance, but we will quickly learn that it is the strait and narrow way that is full of obstacles, pitfalls, and stumbling blocks.
 - D. We may look for methods and plans and schemes which make a marriage, raising children, building and maintaining a church, or being a victorious Christian fail-safe, but we will find sooner than later that all that is just elusive dreams that are encouraged by our selfish heart and the devil himself.
 - E. The truth is that in this life we will have trouble, and lots of it.
 - F. The truth is that all that concerns this life is just what Solomon says it is – vanity and vexation of spirit.
 - G. The only thing that is not vanity in this life is what we do that truly brings glory to God and points others to Him.
 - H. And almost all of that has to do with how we cope with and deal with the troubles in our life.
 - I. So the question for us is this: How do I cope with and handle troubles in my life?
 - 1. Everyone has some big troubles in their life at times, but how do we do with even the small ones of everyday things?
 - J. How we deal with trouble becomes a habit of our mind and heart.
 - 1. We either do it with impatience, frustration, and anger...
 - 2. Or we just deal with it as it is without feeling that we are being treated unfairly, and we go on to the next one.