

**4-10-22 Message**  
**DAVID'S EXAMPLE TO US IN TIMES OF DISCOURAGEMENT**  
***How To Encourage Yourself In The Lord***

I Samuel 30:1 And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire;

I Samuel 30:2 And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way.

I Samuel 30:3 So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.

I Samuel 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.

I Samuel 30:5 And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.

I Samuel 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.

I Samuel 30:7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David.

I Samuel 30:8 And David inquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

I Samuel 30:9 So David went, he and the six hundred men that were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed.

I Samuel 30:10 But David pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor.

Introduction:

This account of David was probably one of the lowest points in David's life, if not the lowest point. So discouraged were he and the men of his army that they even talked about stoning David. Their city was burned, all their wives and children were taken captive. You can't get any lower than that. They probably thought God was punishing them for going over to the Philistines. They blamed David for the choices he made. The men were so upset they even talked about stoning him. Who knows what else was going on in their minds.

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WE READ THIS GREAT PASSAGE.

David is a great example to us all about how to deal with adversity and difficult times. How to find encouragement in a discouraging and hopeless situation. At times when you look at circumstances around you, you just see no light at the end of the tunnel. So this was the case with David at this point in his life. He was a castaway from his own country. His men were against him. All looked hopeless.. In this message we will see how David turned the whole situation around and brought victory out of adversity.

### ***DAVID'S EXAMPLE TO US IN DIFFICULT TIMES.***

#### ***I. IN DIFFICULT TIMES DAVID DID NOT GIVE UP OR QUIT.***

I Samuel 29:11 So David and his men rose up early to depart in the morning, to return into the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

I Samuel 30:1 And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire;

I Samuel 30:2 And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way.

I Samuel 30:3 So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.

I Samuel 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.

Though he wept he did not quit. Though he was distressed he was not defeated.

At times we have to say as Paul the Apostle:

***II Corinthians 4:8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;***

***II Corinthians 4:9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;***

In every person's life they experience times of joy, times of rejoicing and times of weeping.

To date, this probably was the hardest trial that David ever faced.

One thing we can be sure of, in this life we will have tribulation but the Bible says be of good cheer Christ has overcome this world.

Jesus warned his disciples that there would be times of discouragement in their lives. He wanted them to be prepared for that. Don't you think that the Lord has said the same thing to us!

John 16:32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Imagine the heartache that the disciples must have felt when our Lord was crucified.

Imagine that in this life we are going to experience funerals, sickness, setbacks, etc.

Only the Lord knows what lies ahead for us.

The biggest problem I see with people is that when times get difficult they just quit.

We can weep in difficult times but we need to know how to get on our feet and do our job. I see too many people just quitting.

David was distressed just like all the other people.

However, David did not let his sorrow and distress overtake him and demoralize him.

I see too many people quitting in difficult times.

Psalms 30:5 ...weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Victory is just around the corner for those who do not let the difficulties immobilize them.

## **II. IN DIFFICULT TIMES DAVID WAS AN EXAMPLE TO US ON HOW TO ENCOURAGE OURSELVES IN THE LORD.**

1 Samuel 30:5 And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.

1 Samuel 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.**

There will be times that the only one we have in this life will be the Lord.

Jesus never got discouraged when people left Him.

**Imagine in John 6** when there seemed to be a great revival and the multitudes forsook our Lord.

John 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

John 6:15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

So enthusiastic were the crowds that the multitude of disciples were going to take our Lord and by force make Him King.

Then after He got done preaching we read this.

John 6:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

John 6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

John 6:69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

John 6:70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

REMEMBER JOHN 6:66 this is Satan's goal to get you to get so discouraged you walk away from the Lord..

Psalms 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

Psalms 73:26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

Psalms 73:27 For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.

Psalms 73:28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

When times of distress and heartache come we need to lean totally on the Lord.

Someday we will face Him alone no one else.

Our Text says, but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

A person needs to learn to walk with God before these difficult times come, in order that we be encouraged in the Lord. We need to learn to walk with God. This is something we need to do before difficult times come.

This is not something you can learn real quick when it happens.

How did David Encourage himself in the Lord? He did it through his personal pattern of private devotions to the Lord. You can't just muster up this encouragement when the trial comes upon you. This must be a lifestyle. Not just something you do for the moment.

1. HE KNEW HOW TO GET ALONE WITH GOD AND FIND STRENGTH.
2. HE KNEW HOW TO USE GODLY MUSIC TO UPLIFT HIS SOUL.
3. HE KNEW HOW TO DRAW STRENGTH DIRECTLY FROM HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

### ***III. IN DIFFICULT TIMES DAVID WAS AN EXAMPLE TO US of Encouragement BECAUSE HE KNEW HOW TO ENQUIRE OF THE LORD.***

I Samuel 30:7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David.

I Samuel 30:8 And David inquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

In the O.T. God spoke to his leaders by way of the priest with the use of the Urim and Thummim. Somehow these stones would shine when they enquired of the Lord.

What it was we don't know. Josephus said they were lost about 200 years previous to his time.

Today we have the Holy Spirit and the word of God.. these are our New Testament Urim and Thummim. I talked about our NT Urim and Thummim in our Sunday School class a few weeks back. I taught how you can get answers from God.

When he enquired of the Lord, the Lord told him what to do. God is not in the business of inactivity. He wants us doing something for Him.

The reason people get depressed is because they become inactive. People with no goals get depressed. When Elijah was depressed God told him to anoint Elisha.

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

### ***IV. IN DIFFICULT TIMES DAVID WAS AN EXAMPLE TO US of Encouragement BY LEADING HIMSELF AND OTHERS INTO OBEDIENCE AND ACTION.***

God delights in doing the impossible.

How can you steer a car that is standing still? It need to move to be steered.

When people are discouraged they stop serving God.  
They stay home and stop doing things for God.  
Get up, start doing something.

The worst thing for your physical body is inactivity.

The worst thing for your spiritual life is inactivity.

Notice he got his 600 men moving together and working together.

This is what the church is all about. Doing things together.  
There is something you can do!!!! We have an Easter Musical coming. Why not be involved, why not do something for the Lord? Invite people out. Bring out some food, get in the fight. Don't stay home and watch TV.

I Corinthians 12:14 For the body is not one member, but many.

I Corinthians 12:15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

I Corinthians 12:16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

I Corinthians 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

I Corinthians 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

I Corinthians 12:19 And if they were all one member, where were the body?

I Corinthians 12:20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

I Corinthians 12:21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

I Corinthians 12:22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

When you do something you take the whole body with you, hands feet, ears, nose, even those members you don't even know you have.

In difficult times we need more people involved in the battle.

This is not a time to surrender. We are at war. Are you in or out?!

This is not a time to sit home and watch soap operas. We are at battle. Where are you in the conflict?

Roll up your sleeves and get busy serving God!

1 Samuel 30:9 So David went, he and the six hundred men that were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed.

1 Samuel 30:10 But David pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor.

200 men stayed back because they were faint. Yet their job was still important. Even those who can't do something are part of the body.

David didn't cancel the campaign because 200 people got sick and tired and had to stay home. Nothing changed. He pursued them with 400 men instead of 600!

**V. IN DIFFICULT TIMES DAVID WAS AN EXAMPLE OF ENCOURAGEMENT, HE DID NOT LOOK AT HOW FEW THEY WERE.**

**HE GAINS THE VICTORY WITH HIS 400 MEN.  
WE CAN ONLY WONDER HOW 400 MEN GAINED SUCH A VICTORY OVER THOUSANDS.**

1 Samuel 30:17 And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled.

1 Samuel 30:18 And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.

1 Samuel 30:19 And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any thing that they had taken to them: David recovered all.

1 Samuel 30:20 And David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drove before those other cattle, and said, This is David's spoil.

1 Samuel 30:21 And David came to the two hundred men, which were so faint that they could not follow David, whom they had made also to abide at the brook Besor: and they went forth to meet David, and to meet the people that were with him: and when David came near to the people, he saluted them.

Years ago we had a sign up in front of the church with our attendance and our offering. I had a man in the church who came to me and said, Pastor did you notice that our attendance was down last week. I said I will fix that.

I did take care of the problem.

I took down the sign.

There are two sins that we can commit in looking at our numbers.

Did you ever realize it is a sin to let numbers affect your spiritual walk with the Lord?

This is why the Lord told Peter to get his eyes off of John and follow Him. Our walk with the Lord should not depend on people or crowds.. To do so is sin.

**1. IT IS SIN TO LET HOW FEW WE ARE AFFECT YOUR SPIRITUAL WALK WITH THE LORD. LOOKING AT OUR NUMBERS CAN BE SIN.**

The first sin is to look at how few we are and get discouraged. That is a sin. For God is not impressed with numbers. We ought to care for souls and not numbers. Souls consist of the number one. One is a big number with God.

Israel started with one. Abraham one, than Isaac one.

Why did Jesus say,

Matthew 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

Matthew 9:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Wasn't the Lord there to work the harvest? He said, we need laborers who will work one on one with people. One is a big number with God.

**2. IT IS SIN TO DEPEND ON HOW MANY WE ARE. We can be tempted to boast and depend on numbers and not on God.**

I Chronicles 21:1 And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.

I Chronicles 21:7 And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel.

Then there is the sin in trusting in your numbers. This brings pride. This is why God told Gideon he could not win the battle with 30,000 he said that is too big a number. If he won the battle with 30,000 the people actually would think that they won the battle because of how strong and mighty they were.

This is the sin of looking at how big you are and boasting.

God told David to pursue after the Amalikes. He didn't say well Lord they are thousands and we are only 600. He didn't even think about that.

Since when did the Lord say you had to have so many people to be a church?

There will be an Elkdale Baptist Church as long as I am alive and the Lord is with us. It doesn't matter how many we are. The Lord said this: You do not have to stay up late at night worrying about the Elkdale Baptist Church ever closing while I am alive and God is



here. He said he would be here if we are two or three. My wife and I make two. So all I need is you to have a church. I know as long as some of you are alive you will be here.

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

There were times there were only 2 or three of us that showed up for prayer meeting. Do you think I would cancel prayer meeting because we only have 2-3? Do you know if it was only my wife and I we can still come to church and have a prayer meeting.

The only thing we need is the Lord to be with us and a willingness to obey Him.

This was how David led.

Then 200 of his 600 got sick. Maybe they got Covid? We don't know. They were too tired to go on.

DO YOU THINK DAVID SAID, Well we can't do what God told us to do because now we lack 200 NO NO NO. He said, well you guys stay here rest up get better and we will go on.

IF GOD IS WITH US WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?

One thing you can be sure of is this:

As long as we have 2-3 we are going to be a church.

If we have 10 we can be a church.

If we have 30 we can be a church.

If we have 50 we can be a church.

If we have 100 we can be a church.

Numbers are not the determining factor.

I determined many years ago that I am not going to let numbers control me.

I determined a long time ago when it comes to the church I am not going to let money control us. There was a time in our ministry finances got tough and it looked like we may not be able to pay some bills.. That is when I started my business. I am not going to let finances determine if we have a church or whether I am going to Pastor this church. As long as God is in it, and I am alive we have a church. Fear only one thing, that God is no longer with us. He alone can snuff out our candlestick. He can do that if we get out of line with Him. He threatened the church Of Ephesus with this judgment in book of Revelation.

**REV 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.**

The gates of hell cannot prevail against the true church. Only your own discouragement and lack of love for the Lord. If God is with us nothing can prevail against us.

I remember a fellow that graduated with me in seminary, that took a little church not far from here. He closed the church because he said he couldn't afford the heat. Now I believe the only expense they had in the church was the heat and the electric. The building was provided for them rent free. They had about 15 - 20 people in the church. Now he was a nurse and his wife was a nurse. So he made 60,000 a year and his wife made 60,000 a year. That's 120,000 a year. Now 10% of 120,000 is \$12,000

Now in that little building they meet in, I know the heat and electric could not be more than \$12,000.00 a year.

Churches do not close because of lack of numbers. They close because of lack of commitment.

Churches do not close because of lack of finances. They close because of lack of faith.

Discouragement closed churches. David knew how to encourage himself in the Lord and if we are going to endure serving the Lord we need to know how to do the same thing.

And we read this.

**DAVID ENCOURAGED HIMSELF IN THE LORD.**

If you do not encourage yourself in the Lord regularly then you are going to be tempted to quit on God.

David got alone with God and spent time meditating on the word of God. He spent time praying, and singing God's songs.

He knew how to get encouraged with just himself and God.

**DO YOU KNOW HOW TO DO THAT?**

**IV. IN DIFFICULT TIMES DAVID ENCOURAGED HIMSELF IN THE LORD, DID NOT LET THE WICKED MEN OF BELIAL SOW DIVISIONS IN THE CONGREGATION.**

I Samuel 30:22 Then answered all the wicked men and men of Belial, of those that went with David, and said, Because they went not with us, we will not give them ought of the

spoil that we have recovered, save to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead them away, and depart.

I Samuel 30:23 Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand.

I Samuel 30:24 For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.

I Samuel 30:25 And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day.

When people want to instill harsh policies we need to step up and say, no love must prevail.

We need love to prevail in our homes.

We need love to prevail in our church.

We need love to prevail in our relationships.

The fruit of the spirit is LOVE. LOVE. LOVE.

I Corinthians 13:4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

I Corinthians 13:5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

I Corinthians 13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

I Corinthians 13:7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

I Corinthians 13:8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

I Corinthians 13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

David wrote in one of his Psalms:

Psalms 133:1 {A Song of degrees of David.} Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

## ***V. FINALLY, IN DIFFICULT TIMES DAVID WAS AN EXAMPLE TO US ALL OF BEING A SPIRITUAL LEADER.***

BECAUSE DAVID WAS A MAN OF THE SPIRIT, HIS SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP MANIFESTED THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.

DAVID LED THE PEOPLE TO BE JOYOUS AND GOOD.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Galatians 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

I Samuel 30:23 Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand.

I Samuel 30:24 For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.

I Samuel 30:25 And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day.

I Samuel 30:26 And when David came to Ziklag, he sent of the spoil unto the elders of Judah, even to his friends, saying, Behold a present for you of the spoil of the enemies of the LORD;

I Samuel 30:27 To them which were in Beth-el, and to them which were in south Ramoth, and to them which were in Jattir,

I Samuel 30:28 And to them which were in Aroer, and to them which were in Siphmoth, and to them which were in Eshtemoa,

## **CONCLUSION:**

DAVID IS SUCH A GREAT EXAMPLE TO US ALL OF TAKING ADVERSITY AND TURNING INTO VICTORY. THIS ACCOUNT IS ONE OF THE GREATEST EXAMPLES OF DAVID'S SPIRIT FILLED LEADERSHIP ABILITIES.

- I. IN DIFFICULT TIMES DAVID DID NOT GIVE UP OR QUIT.***
- II. DAVID WAS AN EXAMPLE TO US ON HOW TO ENCOURAGE OURSELVES IN THE LORD IN DIFFICULT TIMES.***
- III. DAVID WAS AN EXAMPLE TO US IN DIFFICULT TIMES BECAUSE HE KNEW HOW TO ENQUIRE OF THE LORD.***
- IV. DAVID WAS AN EXAMPLE TO US IN TIMES OF DISCOURAGEMENT BY LEADING OTHERS INTO ACTION ALSO.***
- V. DAVID IS AN EXAMPLE TO US OF NOT LETTING THE WICKED MEN OF BELIAL BE TOO HARSH AND SOW DIVISIONS.***
- V. FINALLY DAVID WAS AN EXAMPLE TO US ALL OF BEING A SPIRITUAL LEADER.***