

Northridge Baptist Church

Pastor Timothy Nutt

Protecting Your Spirit during the Holidays

Verse II Samuel 16:5-14

I thought of Surviving Stones or protecting your spirit during personal attacks. I have heard lately from church members.

- A. Family member is so controlling,
- B. Co-worker is trying to pick a fight,
- C. Friend Christian but not Christian going in the same directionwhat do I do?-----

This what this sermon is about today.

“And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along on the hill’s side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust.” **II Samuel 16:13**

*While David fled for his life from Absalom rebellion, he came across Shimei, a relative and loyal to Saul, who cursed and cast stones at him.

*The servant of David asked if they could kill him---but he refused to grant his request. David said in verse 11, “let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him.”

*You don’t know that the person who rubs you the wrong way—might be sent by the Lord to test you---to help you grow.

*David completely understood that he didn’t need to respond in the same hateful manner of a man who was hurting----because he lost his leader.

*And be aware you might not know why someone is picking a fight, saying hurtful words, or is even trying to get you fired-----you might think you know---but often we don’t know.

*If you serve the LORD in any position---for any length of time, you are going to find yourself in the same position as David.

*People who should be thrilled with what you are doing will only cast stones and even try to destroy you.

* No, they won’t be real stones, but they will be stones of slander, gossip, verbal attacks and spreading of misinformation about you.

* Ins. Agent supervisor thought I lose his sales/Christian standard---trying to get us to drop our standards

1. Work on Sunday,
2. Company party that had drinking, music, dancing.

*Surviving these stones is more determined by how you react to them.

*You must be prepared to say and act a certain way if you are going to escape without hurting your testimony and giving them ammunition to fire at you

*There are five things you need to do to survive the stones.

PRAYER

Always remember that God is in control.

*Example: Ray Young, “You’ll be in sin and hurt somebody if you go out and pastor.”-& everyday by living right I prove him wrong.

*Saying, which really is a modern day proverb that says, “In time God will prove you right, if you are right.”

*In verse 12, David totally understood that God was in control, and he didn’t want to interfere with God’s providential hand.

*You will never survive the stones being cast your way as long as you fight against God.

*Get that statement—“fight against God.”—not that person doing you wrong.

*Lincoln **1.** Terrible loses, **2.** Own cabinet disloyal-newspapers, **3.** Wife-embarrass him in front of Prussia—Lincoln why don’t you do something---“God is in control.”

*That sounds good here, but when others are hurting you that is when the metal of your spiritual character will come out and automatically don’t defend yourself—because God is in control.

*Example: Dr. Hyles scandal did not defend himself---Jesus before Pilot did not defend himself as the pharasee was accusing him.

*God is very capable of taking care of your situation; you are just going to have to trust Him that He will take care of you during the struggle.

* God has never failed to care for you in the past, and He is not about to stop caring for you now. Second, don’t return the stones. Example: Trump returning jabs on twitter.

*David had every opportunity to have this man killed, but he left him alone. Don’t pick up the stones being cast at you and throw them back at those people attacking you.

*Dr. Hyles-said he knew someone wrong with his accuser—but he would of got on his level--& the will of God would not of been done.

*Jesus could of defend himself—but God’s will would not have been done.

*You will become no better than those who cast the stones if you return the attacks---Trust God’s providential hand to protect you; He is very capable of keeping you safe and useful.

1. When someone accuses you at work-go to the supervisor and if some coworker comes up to you-just say, “I talked it over with my supervisor—I did nothing wrong.”
2. If someone is trying to start an argument-about religion, politics or whatever—just say, “I have no opinion.” You will take the wind out of there sales.

- 3.** When someone is trying to control you—just leave—you don't have to stand and argue with them—By defending yourself (it's personal) and it becomes heated.

*In so doing you are getting on their level and returning stones back at them and not trusting God. You're fighting your own battles.

*Remember what Jesus said on the sermon on the Mount, **Matthew 5:9**, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God."

* What Jesus was saying "If you trust God and don't fight back---other people will say that is a Christian/Child of God."

*That's why Jesus said to turn the cheek---JOKE-turn the cheek so you can hit them better. Third, learn from the stones being cast.

*Let me ask you a question—when you were attacked have you ever prayed to the Lord, "Dear God what are you trying to teach me?"

*God teaches through **1.** Instruction, **2.** Correction, **3.** Heart ache, and **4.** Troubles.

*God is trying to teach you during the troublesome times of life—if you are willing to ask him what is He teaching and study and meditate on the situation.

***David said in verse 11**, "the LORD hath bidden him."---There is a lesson in the battle you are facing, and it should be your desire to learn that lesson.

*Always ask yourself while the stones are being hurled what you need to change in your life.

*Remember you can't change them—but you can change how you react to them.---Ask yourself what the LORD is trying to teach you.

*The art of life is knowing when God is trying to teach you and learning the lessons he has---& if you don't those lessons are repeated over and over.

*I have seen Christians get in fights with family, friends, co-workers and church members over and over—because they never learned the lesson God was trying to teach them.

*I have found that every time I go through one of these situations in my life that the LORD is trying to teach me another lesson so that I can be more useful to Him.

*Don't take the stones being cast personally.

*Example: Out soul winning a rude word or a slam of the door—I use to take it personal

*Shimei thought he was being loyal to Saul, and he was also a hurting man because Saul was dead.

*Always remember that those casting the stones are doing so; **1.** Out of hurt, **2.** Because they have been broken by sin and it convicts them, **3.** Just trying to help you from going a wrong way
*Sadly we live in a society that take it personal when they are being corrected, or instructed. But Christians are not supposed to be that way.

If someone says; **1.** “you’re wrong”, **2.** Ask a leading question—to start an argument, or **3.** Spread gossip about you—Don’t fight back, **4.** Don’t defend yourself-just leave it to the Lord and see them as broken and not bad. Example: Broken watch.

*Don’t let the stones being hurled your way become a personal attack.

*Understand that it is a reaction to something going on in their life.

Be refreshed in the LORD.

*So often when I have been gossiped, tried to be control, attacked-I go to the Lord and pour it out to God and leave it there. I don’t defend, attack, explain myself to other.

*Your friends will just believe you when you say that you did not do it and no matter how much you explain/defend your enemies won’t believe you.

*David and his men continued on-----and were refreshed---and eventually defeated Absomlum.

*Because they left the problem in God’s hands and did not fight or defend themselves.(just say, “I did not do anything wrong-and not explain the situation other) --that how you get pulled in

*If you will continue on and do what you are supposed to do, you will find that the LORD will refresh your soul.

*You can endure the stones being cast your way with a good spirit, but it will only happen if you follow these five steps.

*If you follow these five steps, you will find that you will not act unchristian, and you will become a better Christian because of it.

Invitation

*Do you have a co-worker, family or friend that attack, argue, or gossip about you?

First, do you remember that God is in control-or do you say I have no opinion, or separate yourself from them?

Second, don’t return the stones- or do you defend, explain, or attack right back.

Third, learn from the stones being cast-do you say, “Lord in this trouble what am I supposed to learn.

Fourth, don’t take the stones being cast personally-Maybe there trying to help-how do you take instruction or correction. Example: Church member stated my position why and missed the lesson.

*Do you see them as bad, jerk, and you hate them---or do you see them as broken by hard times, convicted by how spiritual or great you have it.

Fifth, be refreshed in the LORD. Do you take it to the Lord and leave it there—He can take care of your problems better than you.