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Go and make disciples!

E-votional 80

God Our Refuge

2 Samuel 22:1-4 (ESV),

And David spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence. I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

King David was being hunted by King Saul. We get many of the Psalms we read from this time in David's life and they are revealing to how he continued to trust the Lord.

David had some serious trouble in his life. It seems like when God anointed him that all hell broke loose upon him. He was constantly fleeing for his life and trying to understand what God would do for him next. Yet we know from reading the Scriptures that ultimately the Lord gave David the victory over Saul and then David became the next King in Israel. These things are important in understanding the context of not only all that David had to go through before entering his promise from God but also how that through this time of waiting and often times running for his life that he continually called upon and took refuge in the Lord.

I have personally gone through an enormous amount of difficulty since the beginning of my Christian journey and as I reflect on much of it, I can clearly see that every time I called upon the Lord and chose to take refuge in Him that He somehow covered me and I came out of the insurmountable difficulty on the brighter side of things. When I say the brighter side of things, I do not mean the way I thought things should go nor am I referring to my own desires in life. Part of taking refuge in the Lord is stepping out of our plans into the hedge of protection that the Lord alone provides. It is quite literally exchanging our plans for the Lord's in our time of exceeding difficulty. The next part is that we do this because we

know that the Lord is faithful and is always near to the brokenhearted and those who seek this refuge and is above all things good and knows what is best for us. (Psalm 34:18; 145:18 (Both are Psalms of David)).

I began reflecting on this last night again but this time during a torrential downpour here in Florida. At my home, we have 2 cats and a dog. When the rain began to beat against the house, I immediately saw one cat tighten its body and flee and was not found until after the storm had passed. It reminded me of King David and the many insurmountable difficulties he had gone through and how each time he took refuge in the Lord. Much in the same way this cat sought diligently a refuge to hide from the storm that loomed overhead.

I had mentioned earlier about exchanging our plans for the Lord's as part of explaining taking refuge in Him. I will explain this more thoroughly now. For example, Psalm 34 was written in the context of 1 Samuel 21 and this will be discovered in many Bibles at the beginning of Psalm 34 in the subscription.

Furthermore, in Psalm 34:8 (ESV), it speaks of the Lord being good and how blessed is that person who takes refuge in Him. David was here writing about one of the times he was fleeing from King Saul and ended up in the hands of Achish (Abimelech), where he then began acting like a madman.

Achish seeing this acting of David as a madman asked his men why they brought this madman to him. From there David escaped and ran into a cave (1 Samuel 22:1). David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab and there asked the king of Moab to let his father and mother stay till he knew what God would do for him (1 Samuel 22:3). Here David is saying that he does not know what the Lord is doing but is going to wait on Him. This is David taking refuge in God. Then in 1 Samuel 21:5 David receives instruction from a prophet named Gad about what he should do next.

And again, I reflect on that torrential downpour and how our cat immediately tightened up and fled for refuge. What an amazing example of how we should respond to the Lord. I wonder, do you find it difficult to let go of your struggles and simply take refuge in the Lord and exchange your plans for His? Also, when taking that refuge do you find it difficult to wait on the Lord's response as to what you should do next if anything?

Well, just think of all the difficulties David went through while fleeing from Saul and be encouraged how even through the difficulty stayed the course and took refuge. Ultimately God gave David the victory and He will do the same for you as well.

Praise the Lord for His faithfulness! We just want to pray for you that you would

discover God as your refuge in the time of storm in the way that David often did. Father, Holy is Your name! You alone are worthy. We just ask for Your ability to remain constant under pressure in the shelter of Your wings. We know that Your ways are good but there are times when our flesh wants to steal the show from You. Your word says that the Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. So, for this reason, fill us with Your Spirit and Your power to continue in trusting You alone, in Jesus name. Amen.

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In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
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