

## A Pastor's Heart

### Encouragement from Pastor McGill

#### Encourage Yourself

**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. 4 Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. 5 And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. 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.*

Can things possibly get any worse than this? This is probably the question that David and his men pondered as they marched home from the battlefield in sheer exhaustion. I can imagine that their only comfort was in knowing that they were going home to reunite with their families. However, when they arrived home, their worst fears had come to pass. Their families had been taken captive and all of their possessions were gone. They wept, they were grieved and finally they wanted to blame somebody for their calamity. There was talk of stoning the leader that caused this to happen, after all someone had to pay for this. We have all faced lows in life. The question posed today is not how did you respond, but how will you respond in the future? If you are reading this, praise God that He has given you another opportunity to get it right. Let's examine David's actions and follow the pattern that led to his success.

First, David realized that despite his circumstance, he could not remain with those who grieved without hope. He had to get away from those who were grieving, bitter and had no hope. We have to draw the line and declare, no more, it's time to get up from this despair.

Secondly, David did not call the pastor, friends, or relatives first. David called on the name of the Lord. He knew Who he needed to consult first. The first counsel you seek should be between you and The Lord. Don't make the mistake of getting this out of order.

Thirdly, David encouraged himself, in the Lord his God. He realized that he could not give what he did not have. He needed this as much as he needed air. The word encouraged used here is the Hebrew word *chazaq* it means to strengthen, to make strong, to grow strong, to make firm. When we read the text we can understand and see that initially David was caught off guard when he came home. He was not expecting things to be the way they were. But after he gathered himself, he made himself strong and grew stronger and was able to pick himself up, gather his thoughts and clearly hear from God. He needed to do this, because of what was left in front of him to accomplish. There is always more ahead of you than behind you.

Finally, David was able to strengthen his army. David led the same men that wanted to stone him into battle. The same men risked their lives for David, what a great lesson in leadership. David had a choice, he could have remained in a state of grief and despair or he could have encouraged himself. We will often times be faced with the same choice. Encourage yourself in the Lord your God. Make it a great day.

#### Blessings and Peace

*Pastor McGill*