

Encouragement in the Lord

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Bailey  
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Scripture Lesson: - I Samuel 30: 1-6.

Text: - I Samuel 30: 6. "But David encouraged himself in the Lord."

*This is beginning of conf. year. But man takes inventory at beginning of yr. are we ready to start n. y. w. hope, faith, courage, or else - discouraged.*

Introduction: - Discouragement is the adversary's shrewdest stroke of satategy. The devil's first line of attack is discouragement. The discouraged man is incapacitated as a channel through which God can manifest his grace and power. Let us look for a little while at some of the men who were discouraged and what God did for them to cure them of the discouragement.

I.

*Joshua*

Following the death of Moses, Joshua was tempted to discouragement. In his hour of sorrow and loneliness, God encouraged Joshua with these words: - "Only be thou strong and very courageous, for I the Lord thy God am with thee whithersoever thou goest."

*god is saying that to us. what more do we need of god is with us?*

Job was tempted to discouragement when overtaken by great affliction along with the loss of his children and all of his earthly possessions. In the hour of his greatest losses, Job encouraged himself with strong affirmation of faith in God expressed in these words: "I know that my Redeemer liveth". While Job did not know or understand why such afflictions had overtaken him, he did know that he had the presence in the midst of his afflictions. While Job could not explain the mystery of his sufferings, he could be triumphant in his sufferings.

*Paul & Silas*

Paul and Silas were tempted to discouragement, when, beaten with many stripes and with bleeding backs they were cast into the inner dungeon of the Philippian jail, and fastened immovably in stocks. However, they encouraged themselves in the Lord and began to sing hymns of praise and gave thanks unto God. Their victorious faith expressed in their triumphant testimony, prevailed over the Philippian jailer who, along with his entire household was converted unto the Lord.

*John*  
John was tempted to discouragement when banished upon the lonely isle of Patmos. He was the last of the apostles. The infant church was threatened with complete extermination under the fire of severe persecution. But John was encouraged in the Lord in a glorious vision of the city of God and a sublime revelation of the things that were to come.

*Elijah*  
Elijah was tempted to discouragement when Jezebel sought his life. The adversary told Elijah that he was the last of the prophets of God, representing a hopelessly lost cause and that it would be the part of wisdom to pray to be released by death from the hopeless and discouraging situations of life. The devil's discouragement propaganda is always a lie. The situation in the case of Elijah was several thousand times better than the devil represented it to be.

## II.

The storm - clouds are gathering today with increasing fury, on every horizon, except in the direction of the city of God. The national scene is an enigma of uncertainty. The ill omens in the international situation give cause for grave alarm. ~~The war in Korea stands at an impasse.~~ The moral and spiritual standards of the nation have declined to a low ebb. Communism has won practically all of the major diplomatic victories during the past fifteen years. A Godless education dictates most of the policies of the educational world. As the night approaches, there is only one star whose light penetrates the gathering night, which is the star that came out of the lineage of David; the Bright and Morning Star, the hope of Israel, the only hope of the world.

We have a remarkable example of encouragement in the Lord in the case of Paul on a storm-tossed ship in the Mediterranean sea. For fourteen days and nights neither sun, nor moon, nor stars had been visible as the storm spent its fury with a vengeance that momentarily threatened the destruction of the ship with all who travelled upon it. Only Paul had any word of encouragement when gloom and despair rested upon the crew and all the passengers. The storm was still raging when Paul cal-

The U.S. is more deeply involved  
in the middle East than most people  
realize. This could be the hour of our  
showdown with the Communist World.  
We are at a grim moment in history.  
It is a moment that Mr. Nehru said  
a few days ago could be the start of  
racial suicide. But the chief problem  
of the world is not Middle East, ~~the~~ the  
H-Bomb, racial tensions or economic  
insecurity. These are symptoms of world  
need of God. There will be no world peace  
until man has a change of nature that  
will make him love instead of hate.

led the crew and the passengers together, consisting of 216 persons, and said unto them; "Sirs, be of good cheer, for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me".

Paul turned to God in the midst of the storm. He received a fresh touch of God upon his own soul, which gave him encouragement that he dared to say to the despondent crew and passengers, while the ~~at~~ storm was still spending its fury, "Sirs, be of ~~xxx~~ good cheer". *We must have a fresh touch from*

*god if we succeed.*

*The world situation <sup>III</sup> might discourage us*

The storms of unrest and dissention are raging over the earth today, beyond anything ever known in human history. We hear about on every hand. Over the radio, thru the press, and in the common conversation of men. Only those who have touched God, believed God, and are obedient to His will, can have any word of trustworthy encouragement to give to men amid the the present storms of war, unrest, confusion and uncertainty that are now sweeping over the whole earth. *(Written Paragraph) here*

Without encouragement in the Lord there can be no sense of security. The future will be shrouded with gloom and despair. Only those who can speak with the authority of the Lord can lead through the wilderness. Our great nation stands in the greatest peril since the war between the states. Civilization is confronted with the greatest peril since the dark ages.

However, there is a way out, but God alone knows the way. No statesman, no military genius, no parliament, no congress, no legislative body on the face of the earth, without the aid of God, can show us the way.

Sixteen of the twenty-one civilizations of the past have perished from the earth. The mightiest empire that the world ever knew, finally crashes in colossal ruin. The pomp of mighty military geniuses has faded like the fogs beneath the morning sun. But <sup>in christ</sup> God remains the same eternal, conquering God of the ages. When men are encouraged in the Lord they are

clothed with wisdom that is beyond that which is merely human. They are undergirded with strength which makes them sufficient for the challenge of every crisis. They are clothed with power that makes them relentless crusaders for righteousness, for the spread of God's kingdom over the earth until "the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea."

You people of the Anderson First church are not discouraged. You are encouraged. You have built a Sunday School room and are about to undertake a program that will challenge your city.

Then we might get discouraged with our own problems. Some might say there's no future for us

Let us not be discouraged  
let us keep our eyes on Jesus  
& he will see us thru. We have  
a wonderful Christ. We have  
a wonderful little church here  
let us not be discouraged but  
enthusiastic about our Christ  
& our church & work as we  
have never worked before.

Enthusiasm is contagious. Let  
us be enthusiastic about our  
religion & our church. If we  
act blue & discouraged we are defeated  
before we begin. God is saying to us today  
as He said to Joshua centuries ago  
only be stronger & courageous for I the  
Lord thy God am with thee wherever  
thou goest. So with that promise let us  
be encouraged & pledge to do our  
part in this little corner of His  
Kingdom.