

FACING LIFE'S CHALLENGES

TEXT:

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1Corinthians 10:13).

"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:" (2Peter 2:9).

"They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away" (Luke 8:13).

INTRODUCTION:

1) We all grow up (mature).

- (1) As we grow, we face many opportunities (some good, some bad).
- (2) We also face many challenges.

2) How do we face life's challenges?

3) Do we have examples of any who faced challenges & successfully met them?

YES!

4) We will note two examples that will be of help.

I. DAVID FACES GOLIATH

1) "And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (1Samuel 17:26).

2) Goliath issues a challenge.

(1) "And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field" (1Samuel 17:44).

(2) Read 1Samuel chapter seventeen.

3) Israel was afraid.

(1) "When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they

were dismayed, and greatly afraid" (1Samuel 17:11).

(2) David comes, sees distress, asked, "And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (1Samuel 17:26).

4) Objections offered. David's reply.

(1) "And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee" (1Samuel 17:34-37).

(2) David goes into battle with five smooth stones, Goliath ridicules. "And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods" (1Samuel 17:43).

5) David's answer.

(1) "Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel" (1Samuel 17:45-46).

(2) David put his trust in God.

6) Result of battle - Goliath slain.

(1) "So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David" (1Samuel 17:50).

(2) Philistines must have been shocked to see Goliath fall.

7) Why did David win this fight?

(1) On the right side. (God's)!!

(2) "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).

(3) "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matthew 12:30).

8) Trusted in God. (Not in Saul weapons).

(1) "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

(2) "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Hebrews 13:5-6).

(3) Wasn't afraid of the giant (Israel was afraid! David's past encounters prepared him for this battle - apply to your own life!)

II. JESUS FACED THE DEVIL.

1) First temptation. Jesus hungry: "And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread" (Luke 4:3).

(1) Jesus is the Son of God! (No if's)

(2) Jesus met temptation: "And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Luke 4:4).

2) Second temptation - high mountain: "And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine" (Luke 4:5-7).

(1) Jesus reply (worship God).

(2) "And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Luke 4:8).

3) Third temptation - Pinnacle of temple: "And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:" (Luke 4:9).

(1) Jesus' answer! "And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God" (Luke 4:12).

(2) Did not yield.

4) Jesus was tempted (challenged!) Met each one with conviction.

III. MANY CHALLENGES FACING US.

1) Satan is going to challenge us. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (1Peter 5:8).

2) What are some of these challenges?

- (1) drugs/alcohol
- (2) immorality
- (3) Satan **makes it look very attractive.**

3) Remember what Jesus says about the devil. "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44).

Conclusion:

1) Life is full of opportunities & challenges.

2) We can meet these challenges and live life abundantly. "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

3) Let us remember both David & Jesus and have the courage and the conviction to do that which is right.