**Finding Resources in Troubled Times**


Introduction
These are difficult times for our country. Very likely, you have personally felt the impact of all of this. Where do we turn in troubled times? In the middle of his trials, David found strength in God and so can we.

I. We find strength in God’s provision.
I Samuel 21:1-9

The first place he went was to the house of God. David asked for help. He is desperate.
- Ahimelech gave David the consecrated bread.
- Ahimelech gave David the sword of Goliath.

Five loaves of bread and a sword, it may not seem like much, but when you have nothing, it means everything. David rejoiced in God’s provision.

II. We find strength in God’s protection.
I Samuel 21:10-15

David went from Nob to the city of Gath. David was hoping to hide out, but a few things worked against him.
- Gath was Goliath’s hometown and David was carrying Goliath’s sword.
- David’s “poster” was everywhere. Even the servants asked, “Isn’t this David, the king of Israel?” His reputation preceded him.

David was very afraid and pretended to be insane. The Lord protected David. David wrote two psalms about this event – Psalms 34 and 56.
Psalm 34
1 I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.
2 My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
3 Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.
4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.
5 Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.

6 This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.
7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.
8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.
9 Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing.
10 The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

III. We find strength in God’s people.
I Samuel 22:1-5

David went to Adullam – back into the hill country of Judah, where he took refuge in a cave.

David is feeling all alone. There in the darkness of a cave he writes two more psalms – Psalms 57 and 142.

Psalm 57
1 Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge.
   I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.
2 I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills (his purpose) for me.
3 He sends from heaven and saves me, rebuking those who hotly pursue me; Selah
   God sends his love and his faithfulness.
4 I am in the midst of lions; I lie among ravenous beasts—men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.
5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.
Would we do that? Could we praise God and glorify his name in the midst of our trials?

What did God do for David?
- He provided food.
- He protected him from his enemies.
- He surrounded him with family and friends.

His trials would continue, but David was no longer alone.

What was God doing in David’s life?

John Woodhouse made these observations in the NIV Application Commentary on I Samuel.
- One third of I Samuel is devoted to David’s fleeing from Saul.
- Seven Psalms are associated with this period in David’s life.
- One third of each of the Gospels is devoted to Jesus’ suffering.

God was preparing David to be the King of Israel.
God uses trials in our life to refine us and shape us and prepare us for future service.

Conclusion
here do we find strength in troubled times?
here do we find resources to help us when we are in need?
e find our strength in God.
- In His Provision.