DEALING WITH DISCOURAGEMENT

Scripture Reading: John 16:31-33

06/02/19

Introduction:
1. Everyone deals with discouragement from one time or another.
2. God does not want His people to be discouraged.

I. **BIBLICAL EXAMPLES**
   A. **ELIJAH -1Ki 19:1-18**
      1. Elijah just had a great victory at Mt. Carmel -1Ki 18:20-40
      2. Now, Jezebel sought his life -19:2
      3. He prays for death -vs. 4
      4. He comes to Mt. Horeb, the Mountain of God -vs. 8
      5. He believes he is alone -vs. 10
      6. There are seven thousand who have not bowed to Baal -vs. 18

   B. **JOHN THE BAPTIZER -Lk 7:19-23**
      1. He asked, “Are You the One or do we seek another?”
      2. Jesus answered with power
         a. The power would remind John of prophecy concerning Jesus.
         b. It reveals that there is no one else like Jesus.

II. **CAUSES OF DISCOURAGEMENT**
    A. **PHYSICAL ILLNESS**
       1. Some of God’s great people became ill.
          a. Paul’s thorn in the flesh -2Co 12:7-10
          b. Timothy’s stomach infirmity -1Ti 5:23
          c. Epaphroditus -Ph 2:25-30
       2. Remember, physical illness doesn’t have to hinder us from serving God!

    B. **LOSS OF MATERIAL POSSESSIONS**
       1. Example of Job -1:13-21
          a. He lost 11,500 head of cattle; 7 sons and 3 daughters.
          b. His attitude -Job 1:21
       2. When we suffer loss of material things, remember…
          a. All things belong to God -Ha 2:8
          b. We must leave it all behind -1Ti 6:7
          c. God still provides for our needs -Mt 6:33; He 13:5
C. FRIENDS CAN TURN AGAINST US
   1. Consider Jesus…
      a. Many of His disciples turned away -Jn 6:66
      b. Judas betrayed Him
      c. All forsook Him in the Garden
         1) According to prophecy -Zech. 13:7
         2) Fulfilled -Mt 26:31; Mk 14:50
      d. Peter denied Him three times -Mk 14:66-72
   2. The apostle Paul
      a. Demas forsook Paul having loved this present world -2Ti 4:10
      b. All forsook Paul at his first defense -2Ti 4:16
   3. The same can happen to us simple because we follow Christ.

III. THINGS TO REMEMBER IN OVERCOMING DISCOURAGEMENT:
   A. REMEMBER OUR STRENGTH
      1. Reading the word -1Pe 2:2; He 4:12-14
      2. Prayer -Mk 1:35; 1Th 5:17; Lk 18:1
      3. Fellowship -Heb 10:24, 25
   B. REMEMBER TO BE STEADFAST
      1. God wants us to use the abilities He has given -Ep 4:11-16
      2. Continue pressing on to the goal -Ph 3:12-14
   C. REMEMBER WE ARE NEVER ALONE
      1. Jesus never leaves us, nor forsakes us -Mt 28:20; He 13:5
      2. No one can stand against us when God is with us -Ro 8:31
      3. Jesus stood with Paul -2Ti 4:17
      4. Remember what the Lord told Elijah -1Ki 19:18
   D. DISCOURAGEMENT IS TEMPORARY
      1. “…weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” -Ps 30:5
      2. One person’s favorite passage is, “It came to pass…”
   
Conclusion:
   1. Success belongs to those who do not quit:
      a. Lincoln lost 8 elections before becoming our sixteenth President.
      b. Robert E. Peary had 7 failures and 23 years of fruitless searching before discovering the North Pole.
   2. Ultimate success is ours if we do not quit -Re 2:10