

Keep Hope Alive in Difficult Situations

CITAM Parklands

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2020 Theme & Month's theme

Annual theme: Give me this Mountain

Month's focus: Rekindling Hope 2020

Recap:

Faith that Move Mountains/
Guarding the Heart/ Reclaiming
the Temple/ Redeeming the
Family



Today's message:
KEEP HOPE
ALIVE IN
DIFFICULT
SITUATIONS
Lamentations
3:21-24

Difficult situations: refer to our mountains and giants therein

Premise:

1. The said mountains and the giants therein are real
2. 'Cannot talk of hope in the absence of hopelessness







ARTISANT

Demystification

* Denial of reality is not necessarily a mark of deep spirituality

* For example, Are medics under demonic anointing when they diagnose one of us (God forbid) with terminal illness?

* An emotional touchy issue – yet denial is not the answer – recognition of God's sovereignty over whatever matter is the answer (consider the man born blind, John 9)

Demystification - God's prerogative

1. To heal (there are many biblical examples),
2. To avail sufficient-grace (regarding Paul's thorn in the flesh 2 Corinthians 12:8-9a says; *Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness".*), or
3. Permanently heal you (home-going)

The truth in
Caps...

Biblical people (real) faced real
mountains & the associated giants
– the cases were hopeless without
Divine intervention



Some examples

Moses versus
the Red Sea/
Egyptian army/
rugged terrain –
all odds were
against them

Exodus 14:13-14

And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."



Examples cont'd...



David versus Goliath – without God this was a hopeless case; David knew it, while Goliath thought he'd won b4 the battle even begun

1 Samuel 17:45-47

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand."



Examples cont'd...

Meshack, Shadrack and Abednego
versus the king's order/ furnace

Daniel 3:16-18

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."



Examples cont'd...

Daniel versus
King's order/ the
lions in the den



Daniel 6:16

Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!"

Daniel 6:20-22

As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm."



Examples cont'd...

Caleb versus the Hill
country of Hebron/ the
giants

Joshua 14:10-12

And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, just as he said, these forty-five years since the time that the Lord spoke this word to Moses, while Israel walked in the wilderness. And now, behold, I am this day eighty-five years old. I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming. So now give me this hill country of which the Lord spoke on that day, for you heard on that day how the Anakim were there, with great fortified cities. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the Lord said.”

The common denominators in the examples

1. The people involved were real,
2. The mountains and the giants they faced were real as well, and
3. Their dependence on God [conviction-based] was remarkable

By the way: What is the bigger miracle? To wish the mountain and the giants thereof away, or to admit existence with a declaration of God's ability to deal with whatever it is?

From the examples given, stick to and with God no matter what...

Paradox of life

12 spies go out – admit to see the same things, but the outcome's different;

1. 10 melt to the mountains and giants that stand as a challenge
2. 2 are convinced of God's ability to deliver the land

Parallel: The Pareto principle – 20:80 ratio

Qt. (Your name)... Where is God in the equation? In the given ratio, what side do you belong?

Conclusion

Keep hope alive as you face your mountains and the giants therein by actively depending and looking to God with deep conviction for His answer to you...



KEEP HOPE ALIVE TO GOD'S GLORY