

DAVID TRUSTS HIS ARMY

1 Chronicles 21

Lesson Memory Verse: Psalm 118:8 "It is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in man."

Lesson Aim: We need to trust the Lord to protect us and not to put our trust in men to do that.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Have you ever gotten lost in a store, at a state fair or in a large city? (Let the children tell about some experiences of being lost.) If you get lost, what is the first thing you should do? (They may give you many wrong answers, but the right answer is to go to the Lord first and ask Him for His help.) Then, of course, it is all right to ask someone for help. If they go to the Lord first and trust in Him, He will guide them to the right person to give them help. He also will give them peace that all will be well, if they truly trust in Him.

King David learned that he had to trust in the Lord instead of his armies for help. Maybe David wrote our memory verse for this week after he learned this lesson. Let's find it in our Bibles. The verse is Psalm 118:8.

HE (for Authority): Have someone read Psalm 118:8. Does anyone know what "confidence" means? "Confidence" is another word for "trust." There are a lot of people we trust. Can you name some people that you trust to take care of you? (Police, firemen, soldiers, teachers, parents.) But who is the best person to trust according to our memory verse? (The Lord) That means we should pray and ask Him for His help before we ask anyone else to help us. He may use people to help us, but He wants to guide us to the right persons. If we call upon Him, He will lead us to the best people to help us. This is an important lesson that we will need to remember for the rest of our lives. Let's see how David learned to trust the Lord.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In today's lesson David had to learn through a hard experience to trust the Lord rather than his army.

I. The Command of David (21:1-7)

Satan stirred up David to number the men of Israel and Judah to find out how many men were in his army. He wanted to see how much man power he had to fight against his enemies, so he commanded Joab to search throughout the country and give him the number of men ready to fight in a war. This showed that David was putting more trust in a large army of men than in the power of the Lord to fight his battles. This did not please the Lord.

WE: We must not allow Satan to stir up our minds so that we distrust the Lord. We need to learn to trust in the Lord for all things. We need to trust Him when we are lost or when we have lost something. We need to trust Him to fight our enemy when he wants to hurt us; it may be a person to attack us or it may be Satan to tempt us. We need to trust Him when we have an important job to do or a simple job to do. The Lord wants us to trust Him for everything that we do. When you have a problem, who is the first one that you usually go to for help? Is it your parents when you are home or your teacher when you are at school? But what does our memory verse say? Our memory verse says, "It is better to trust in the Lord." Then the Lord will show you where to go for help.

David trusted in his army for protection from his enemies and for power to conquer his enemies rather than trust in the Lord. This was a great sin and it made the Lord unhappy with David (21:7). The Lord had to punish David and teach him to hate his sin.

WE: If we trust in people or even trust in ourselves to solve our problems, we sin against the Lord. He will punish us, too, so we will learn to trust Him as we should.

II. The Choice of David (21:8-17)

David's sin had to be punished and the Lord gave him a choice of three punishments. (1) He could have three years of famine in his land so there would be very little food to eat. (2) He could be defeated by his

enemies for three months. (3) He could have three days of pestilence from the Lord, which was a sickness that would cause many people to die. The Lord could cause as many people to die in three days as it would take his enemies to do in three months or take a famine to do in three years. David decided to trust in the Lord's mercy and chose to have the pestilence for three days (21:13). Even with the Lord's mercy, 70,000 men died. That shows how wicked David's sin was. Since David had put trust in the large number of men in his army, the Lord reduced the size of his army by 70,000 men. It is possible that the Lord was punishing them for some sin that they had done, but we do not know. However, it caused great grief for David to see so many people suffer because of his sin. Galatians 6:7 says, "Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap." David received a strong punishment from the Lord for his sin.

WE: We sin when we do not trust the Lord and He will punish us for our sin. Our sin may cause other loved to get hurt as well. This will cause us much sorrow, but the Lord will use it to teach us to hate our sin and to trust in Him always.

III. The Confession of David (21:18-30)

David saw what his sin did to Israel and was broken in his heart for it. He confessed his sin and was as so sorry that he wanted all the punishment to be on him (21:17). The Lord commanded Gad, the prophet, to tell David to build an altar for Him on the threshing floor of Ornan. David bought the threshing floor from him for a large amount of money and offered an expensive sacrifice on it. When David proved his sorrow was genuine, the Lord forgave him and the pestilence was stopped. David believed this place, where he had built this altar to the Lord, should be the place where the Temple of the Lord should be built. He could not build the Temple, but he collected a large amount material for the Temple and Solomon built it after David died.

WE: We need to confess our sin when we realize that we have done wrong. Our confession must be from a broken heart. The greater sin that we commit should be followed by a greater sacrifice to prove our broken heart. The Lord will not turn away from a person with a broken heart (Ps 51:17). When the Lord looks into our hearts after we failed to trust in Him, does He see that we are very sorry about not trusting Him? If so, He will forgive you. 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." It is a great God to forgive us and forget our sins.

BE (for Action): David committed a serious sin in this lesson. Can anyone tell me how David sinned? (He trusted in his army instead of the Lord.) He thought he would be safe if he had a large army to fight against his enemies. He forgot that it was the Lord that would make his army strong, not the number of men in his arm. When you are in trouble, who should you talk to first? (The Lord) If you talked to people and asked them for help before you talked to the Lord, who did you trust the most? (People) What does the Lord call it? (Sin) When you sin, what do you have to do to please the Lord? (Confess the sin by telling Lord exactly what you did wrong.) If you need to pray and confess your sin to the Lord, I will help you after class. May the Lord help you to trust Him for all things in your life.