

Seek and Enquire of the LORD during Famines

“1 Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites. 2 And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah.) 3 Wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the LORD? 4 And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel. And he said, What ye shall say, that will I do for you. 5 And they answered the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Israel, 6 Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, whom the LORD did choose. And the king said, I will give them. 7 But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the LORD's oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul. 8 But the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bare unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite: 9 And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the LORD: and they fell all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest. 10 And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it for her upon the rock, from the beginning of harvest until water dropped upon them out of heaven, and suffered neither the birds of the air to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night. 11 And it was told David what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done. 12 And David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the men of Jabeshgilead, which had stolen them from the street of Bethshan, where the Philistines had hanged them, when the Philistines had slain Saul in Gilboa: 13 And he brought up from thence the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son; and they gathered the bones of them that were hanged. 14 And the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son buried they in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the sepulchre of Kish his father: and they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God was intreated for the land.” (2 Samuel 21:1-14 KJV)

King David in the above chosen passage sought the face of God for the famine that was there for three successive years. *“1 Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites.” (2 Samuel 21:1 KJV)* From such an event and what had happened we can learn the following about seeking the face of God:

1.) *Certain problem in your life can be God's leading for you to seek His face:* Whenever everything is alright you don't think to seek God earnestly or draw nearer to Him. But unresolved problems will cause you to attentively seek God's face and wanting to be drawn closer to Him.

2.) *Seeking God's face is not a short term process:* Seeking God's face is looking more intently about God, knowing more details from God's Word. Seeking God's face is looking

for more details from God about His pleasant, good, and perfect will. Seeking God's face cannot be achieved in a few days or months. It may take even years.

3.) *In order for God to reveal to you His will, you need to be humble and willing to listen:* *“9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.” (Psalms 25:9 KJV)* God will not speak to you if you are not willing to listen. God will not speak to you if you are not humble and teachable. If you want to seek God's face, take away all pride and ego in your heart, humble yourself, and kneel down before God. You must be willing to listen from His Word about every aspect of your life; even the matters that you don't like to hear. While seeking God's face be ever ready to change your mind and adapt to the new things that God is speaking to you.

4.) *To seek God's face is not an easy task:* When you seek God's face to know His will, you need to do what God says to you. In most of the time this is not easy. In the passage, 2 Samuel 21:1-14, we read that David was requested to hand over seven men to be executed, and this was not an easy matter for David because they were the relatives of his friend Jonathan and nephews of his wife Michal; *“the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite.” (2 Samuel 21:8 KJV)* David even vowed to Saul not to cut off his descendants. But David set his heart to seek God's face and he was willing to obey even when it hurt, that he should not compromise even his wife will be affected. Similarly, as you set your heart to seek God's face, be willing to obey God and do whatever He asks you to do.

Let us go now to the Scriptures to study the previous days of King David then we will realize what King David did in order to please God and entreated for His blessing to come back to Israel.

David after his triumph over Goliath was supposed to marry Merab Saul's daughter as was promised to the person who would kill Goliath, *“25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.” (1 Samuel 17:25 KJV)* King Saul did not fulfill what he promised: *“19 But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife.” (1 Samuel 18:19 KJV)* Instead, King Saul gave David his second daughter Michal, *“25 And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. 26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired. 27 Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.” (1 Samuel 18:25-27 KJV)* But later on Michal was taken from David and given to another man, *“44 But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Phalti the son of Laish, which was of Gallim.” (1 Samuel 25:44 KJV)* After the death of Saul, David requested back his wife Michal to be brought back to him, *“12 And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, Whose is the land? saying also, Make thy league with me, and, behold, my hand shall be with thee, to bring about all Israel unto thee. 13 And he said, Well; I will make a league with thee: but one thing I require of thee, that is, Thou shalt not*

see my face, except thou first bring Michal Saul's daughter, when thou comest to see my face. 14 And David sent messengers to Ishbosheth Saul's son, saying, Deliver me my wife Michal, which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines. 15 And Ishbosheth sent, and took her from her husband, even from Phaltiel the son of Laish. 16 And her husband went with her along weeping behind her to Bahurim. Then said Abner unto him, Go, return. And he returned." (2 Samuel 3:12-16 KJV) Michal after that lived with King David, and we can read here one of the recorded events between them as husband and wife: "16 And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. 17 And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. 18 And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. 19 And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house. 20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself! 21 And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD. 22 And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour. 23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death." (2 Samuel 6:16-23 KJV) Michal as we noticed was a hard wife. Now going back to the event of famine, when David found out that he needed to hand over, "the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite." (2 Samuel 21:8 KJV) The five sons was for her sister Merab, because Michal has no children till her death, but Michal was the one who brought up those five sons of Merab, for Merab married "Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite" and not Michal as we read here, "19 But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife." (1 Samuel 18:19 KJV)

Michal at that time was living with David as his wife and he needed to hand over the five sons that she brought up to be put to death. It was a hard thing to do, but David was compelled to obey God and comply with His will not for the sake of solving the issue of famine, but in order to please God because he had set his heart to please God. The same thing is to be for you. As you set your heart to seek God's face then be willing to obey Him and do whatever He would commanded you to do.

5.) **Certain sin in the past done by some people before, God might call you accountable to correct what had happened:** As you seek God's face you may be called accountable to correct what has happened in the past. There may be sin committed by some people before and God requires you to rebuke and correct. As a true follower of Christ, God calls you to declare the truth to others; not to cover wickedness and not to compromise. God wants to use you as an instrument of righteousness so you need to be at that level of expectation. David obeyed God and did whatever He asked him to do. And truly the Lord testified about David saying, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall

fulfil all my will." (Acts 13:22 KJV) The same should be for you; obey God and do exactly what He wants you to do.

My Dear and Beloved: If you are in famine and passing through scarcity and financial crisis then seek God and find out what is the sin and the wrong doing that now needed to be corrected. Use the opportunity today to seek God's face. The problem, or the famine that is today in your life it might be the way that God used to call your attention to certain sinful act that had happened in the past and God wants you to deal with it today.

Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your clear Word to me. Lord thank you for showing me that I need to seek your face in order to know the cause whenever there is a scarcity in my life.

Confess and renounce now all your sins. Confess and renounce your fear of man and your compromises because you are not willing to suffer from people. Renounce your non willingness to suffer and so you are not willing to deal with certain problems from the roots. Renounce doing your own plans and will and not the will of God. Confess your lack of reading God's Word and your lack of prayers. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____.

Lord, I humble myself at your feet and with all my heart I am willing to listen, to change my mind, and to obey what you would ask me to do. Lord, I commit myself to inquire of you at all times and in all things that come across my life. I commit myself to seek your counsel for all that I am about to do in serving you. Lord, uphold me with your grace, give me wisdom and answer me when I call. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.

Lord I seek your face to teach me what to do for this problem to be solved _____.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who committed themselves to inquire from you in all their troubles and to seek your face for the famine that they are passing through. Lord uphold them with your grace and mercy, answer their prayers and give them the solutions for the scarcity that they are in. Lord protect them and provide all their needs to go on and serve you.

Lord, we commit ourselves as your church to apply what we learned in the message today in our lives, in the lives of our families and the disciples. Lord we seek your face in handling the following problem that we are passing through _____. Lord continue to lead us with your Holy Spirit to do the things that you wants us to do. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord

*Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name,
Amen.*

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