## GOD, I NEED YOUR HELP

In every situation, we need to learn to fully rely on God for everything.

### KEY POINTS

- God's stated purpose for many of the things He does in the world and in our lives is that we may know that He is God (see Exodus 16:2, many other scriptures).
- The prophet Ezekiel in particular brings home this message again and again: "Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God."
- This very important knowledge also seems very basic. So why so much repetition? Could it be that we often don't get this, forget it, or just ignore it?
- Once we know for ourselves that there really is a God, we have two choices: a) pretend, deny and ignore the obvious, or b) run to him, cling to him and fully rely on him for everything.
- The core of popular current beliefs is that the power to accomplish anything *is in you*. The god, the hero, the secret, the answer, the essence – it's all *you*. Is this wrong?
- Didn't David, the biblical hero, shepherd-turned-king, say "I can run through a troop and leap over a wall" (II Samuel 22:30)? Didn't the apostle Paul say "I can do all things" (Philippians 4:12)?
- Doesn't the Bible itself, therefore, teach self-reliance?
- Let's look more closely at those verses. The quotes above are incomplete! The missing words are "by my God" and "through Christ who strengthens me", respectively.
- Peter said, "I will never deny you [Jesus]" (Matthew 26:35). But Jesus said, "Oh yes, you will" (Mark 14:30). Life will show us that we don't have what it takes to succeed in every situation.
- 'I need help, I need God.' Every person has to learn this, sometimes many times over. I can't depend on myself. "In me, that is, in my flesh, dwells no good thing" (Romans 7:18).
- But as Jesus assured Peter that "I have prayed for you that your faith will not fail" (Luke 22:31), so He has prayed for us (see John 17).
- We can't just depend on others. "It is better to trust in God than to put confidence in people…" (Psalm 118:9).
- Even powerful or talented or wealthy people are still just people. For some things we simply have to go to God.
- At the same time, we can't just give up and refuse to care.
- We learn this from Esau and his birthright (Genesis 25:20-34); from Elijah's words to Joash regarding some arrows (2 Kings 13:14-19); and from Hezekiah's vs. Abraham's attitude when they heard the future fate of others (Genesis 18: 20-23 vs. 2 Kings 20:16-19).
- Sometimes shame keeps us from coming to God, even though He is the only one that can help. But what we are told to do in Hebrews 4:15-16 is to "Come boldly before the throne of grace" (NIV).
- What you are ashamed to talk to God about, he already knows. The purpose of that situation was to let you see in a very real way how much you need God.
- Now, what God does for us often depends a lot on how much we care.
- Right now all you may know, simply and clearly and strongly, is "I need help". And you know that the help you need comes only from God.
- Start calling on Him right now. If you have called before, call again, with all your heart. God said "you will seek me and find me when you search for me with all of your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).
- So let's come and seek Him. Let's call on Him. Let's say loud and clear: **"God, I need your help".**

**KEY SCRIPTURES:**
**Deuteronomy 8:7-17, 32:9-15**

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Read 2 Kings 4:1-7. Which of the elements above do you see/not see in this story (i.e. relying totally on self; pretence, denial, ignoring God; depending solely on others; giving up and refusing to care/act; allowing shame to deter from asking)?
2. How did the actions of the widow contribute God's provision? Explain how others were involved in the outcome.
3. What is one need (or more) that we have as a church family? As individuals and/or as a church, how can we acknowledge that "He is the LORD our God" in facing each need?
4. Personally identify a need in which you must and will fully rely on God, however and by whomever He chooses to act on your behalf.

**Prayer Time**
Lord, I trust you. In Jesus' name, amen.

**L.G. ice-Breaker: Would you sit in a wheelbarrow being pushed by an expert tightrope walker across a deep chasm? Why or why not?**

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 22, 2018

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

(Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS