

## THOUGHTS FOR SERMONS

### "Sometimes Something More than Words is Needed"

**Romans 8:28-29; 38-39; 2 Chronicles 20:1-30**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

**Introduction:** Consider a group of young people swimming in a lake and one of them decides to try to swim across the lake, but about half way across begins to have cramps and begins to get water in the lungs and starts to sink. From the shore friends are shouting advice of all sort, "hold your head up, turn around and swim back, kick harder, lie on your back and float, breathe through your nose, etc." but all to no avail. Finally someone gets into a boat and paddles out to the drowning person and reaches into the water and pulls him/her into the boat and rescues him/her. Which was more helpful - all the words of advice or someone actually doing something more than just giving advice, such as reaching out and pulling the one in trouble out of danger?

1. There are times when WE need more than advice from others, WE need someone to step in and actually help.
  - Difficult situations happen and advice doesn't help.
    - All thoughts about relief have been tried and none worked.
    - The more effort is made to get through the situation, the more difficulty it becomes.
2. During difficult situations questions about God begin to work on the mind:
  - "Is God really good?"
  - "Does God care for me?"
  - "What does God want from me?"
  - Faith begins to weaken and anger sets in.
  - "Nobody knows what I am going through."
3. God often leads His children into places that they'd rather stay away from.
  - Or sometimes things just happen which creates a very dire situation.
  - No matter where God leads His children, He is always there with them.
  - God uses difficult situations to take away one's "self-trust" and waywardness and to deepen that child's commitment to God's purposes.
  - God wants His children to share in the spiritual and moral character of Jesus Christ.
4. God does indeed love His children and to move away from Him in times of stress, trial and difficulty is to give Satan a victory.
  - What Jesus went through, climaxing at the cross, He went through for US, therefore revealing the depth and extent of God's love for His children.
  - When trials and difficulties bring distance between a person and God, it does not lessen a bit the love that God has for that person.
5. There are times when WE need more than advice, no matter how good the advice may be.
  - There are times when God has to come out of heaven for US or it's all over.
  - Only God, Himself, can bring deliverance in some situations and He did it once at the cross and He will do it again when OUR enemy, Satan, has us in difficult situations.
  - And the questions arise again: Is God good? Does God care? What does He want from ME (US) anyway?

6. 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 is an example for how much God cares and what He can do for us.
- Disaster was imminent with much loss of life facing Israel with no exemptions.
  - Perhaps YOU are in a similar situation:
    - finances, health, violence, drugs, family, job, etc.
    - Every Christian will need to cry out to God for deliverance, the deliverance that only God can provide.
  - The writer reveals the coming disasterous situation facing God's children (20:1-4).
  - The writer then tells of king Jehoshaphat going to God in prayer (20:5-13).
  - The writer writes of God's response to the king's prayer and the dire situation of His (God's) children (20:14-19).
  - In summary the writer tells of God and His children sharing in the victory that had been prayed for and the peace that everyone finally enjoyed for God had made them secure. (20:20-30)

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Romans 8:28-29; 38-39
2. God does indeed care for His children, every single one and knows each one intimately and is aware of each situation each of His children gets into.
3. When there is darkness in YOUR life, God will move in a bring light. When there is sadness, God will bring you joy. Where there is sudden seemingly disaster approaching, God will give you victory.
4. Christian, pray that God will give you eyes to see and ears to hear and that He will bring answers to any and all situations you find yourself in.