

Times of Uncertainty: King David

After reading this devotion with your family, also take time to read with them Psalms 63 and 142.

Every time I have been to the grocery store lately, as you know, there hasn't been any toilet paper. I'm not sure how toilet paper sustains life during a time of crisis, but it is what it is. We are blessed here because the stores are mostly stocked, and it doesn't look like we'll run out of food at any time soon. My daughter-in-law sent us pictures of the grocery store down in Phoenix. The shelves were completely bare. However, my grandson Teddy was happy to see that the freezer was filled with ice-cream!

How sad it is that because of our sinful human condition, in times of crisis we are prone to be selfish, grabbing for ourselves as much as possible without caring about the welfare of others. This is nothing new. About a thousand years before Jesus was born, in the spring of the year when kings went off to war, King David was holed up in the Cave of Adullam. The Philistine army was encamped between him and Bethlehem, some twenty miles away. David was thirsty and longed for the delicious, refreshing water that flowed from the well near the gate of Bethlehem. He said, "Oh, that someone would get me a drink of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem." In unwavering allegiance to their king, risking their lives, three of his mighty men broke through the Philistine lines, drew water from Bethlehem's well, and brought it to him. David was conscience stricken. He refused to drink it. Instead he poured it out before the LORD and said, "Far be it from me, O LORD, to do this! Is it not the blood of men who went at the risk of their lives?" He realized how self-centered he had been and repented of his selfishness.

In Psalm 37 King David wrote, "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed." These words certainly are true. Our God graciously gives us our daily bread, and most often, our daily cake too. How can there be any room for selfishness? Now is not the time to look out for number one. Now is the time to humbly thank God for his abundance. Now is the time to look out for each other with an open hand. Seek out opportunities to share with those who are hurting. The apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 6, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Dear Jesus, forgive me for my sins of selfishness and self-indulgence. Purify me with the blood you shed on the cross. Comfort me with the assurance of forgiveness that your empty tomb brings. Work in me the same selfless, self-sacrificing love that you displayed for me by giving up all things so that through your poverty I might become rich, having the priceless gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Work in me a generous spirit toward all. Amen.

Pastor Zuberbier