

What Is Your First Strike?

1 Samuel 30:6-8

6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David.

8 And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake *them*, and without fail recover *all*.

We know the story of Ziklag. The Amalekites came in and burned the city with fire and carried away captive the household of David and his men. They all lifted their voices and wept until they had no more power to weep.

Then something very unique happened; I'll call it the first strike. David is greatly distressed because his men's first strike in regards to the tragedy that was transpiring against them was to stone him.

We then see David's first strike. It wasn't to say, "Hey guys, I'm in the same boat as you; it's not my fault." David's first strike was to encourage himself in the Lord. Encourage in Hebrew means to fasten upon. David fastened upon God. David got the Lord involved in His situation. We know that it is not by our might, nor by our power, but it is by HIS Spirit!!

He then got the Man of God involved in the situation. Shutting out your pastor in times of crisis is never a wise decision.

Then David enquired (to request; by extension to demand: - ask [counsel, on]) at the Lord. David didn't take matters into his own hands; David put matters into God's hands.

When we are distressed, or saddened and overwhelmed by life's circumstances, what is your first strike? Do you lash out at those around you? Do you lash out at God? Do you lash out at your church family? Are you looking to stone somebody when life's not fair?

Years have gone by now in the life of David, he is now the king, and it's the time of year that kings go off to battle. David makes the foolish decision to stay home and let Joab and his army fight the battle. We know the story, David commits adultery with one of his mighty men's wives, she becomes pregnant by him, and David has Uriah killed in the battle he should have been fighting. How many unnecessary deaths occurred that day, all because David chose to stay home when he should have been engaged in the battle?

Months have gone by, David thinks he has gotten away with adultery and murder, and Nathan, the prophet decides it's time to pay David a visit and tell him the problems he has in the kingdom. David believing that he had thoroughly covered his transgressions is not putting the pieces of the puzzle together that Nathan is telling him, and here is his first strike:

2 Samuel 12:5-6

5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this *thing* shall surely die:

6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

What a different response. David sounds just like his men at Ziklag. It's amazing how complicated we make life when we take God out of the picture. After Nathan exposes his sin, here is David's first strike.

2 Samuel 12:13

13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

May our first strikes always be getting God involved in our situation, getting the man of God involved, and then enquiring at the Lord. Those first strikes are the best strikes!!!

R.P.S.