

Great Increase in the midst of Distress

Ebenezer **WAS** the place of defeat.
The **PLACE** of defeat can become the place of victory.
Adam – 1st Gdn – ground cursed
Gdn – blood – healing the market place
Jesus can turn the worst situation into the greatest opportunity
Samson – worst of situation
– eyes gorged out – shame – one last act did mote
Oh – terrible situation – crisis of econ – now virus
D sent - **BECOS** - God **about** to send new wave of blessings
Send in virus to distract
Oh – **TERRORIST** struck again – becos
God about release great blessing on Indonesia
God's time for ASIA – not mean God forsaking West – recog that's how God works - HISTORY
Babylon – Persian – Greek – Romans – Britain – US – South America – now Asia – last days – largest conc of population
Lost what I did whole day – distressing – opport to get a fresh message

Psalms 4:1

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast ENLARGED me when I was in DISTRESS; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer. KJV

What will happen if we always see ourselves as victims or victimised?

Daniel – captive – regarded as captive – after working for so long
Rose to highest position in the land
Not bitter - Didn't see himself as victim or victimised
Until we honest with ourselves – not blame others – can't receive grace to bring great reversal

A. Rest in His lovingkindness

2 How long, O men, will you turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?

*3 Know that the LORD has set apart the **GODLY** for himself; the LORD will hear when I call to him.*

*4 In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. 5 Offer **RIGHT** sacrifices and trust in the LORD. NIV*

David have in mind **Absalom's** rebellion – background of this Psalm
2 Samuel 15:11

11 Two hundred men from Jerusalem had accompanied Absalom. They had been invited as guests and went quite innocently, knowing nothing about the matter.

What we learn from Absalom's strategies?

Gave **IMPRESSION** – devoted – spiritual

Asked permission – sacrifice in Hebron – birth place

David that – **changed**

Learn – **don't see hear** things merely SURFACE – peace

If Absalom can use the Name of the Lord, don't be surprised that

Man came back – honey – great business opport – million dollar opportunity – wife no peace – don't go – but he looks so genuine and spiritual - see not surface– miss? – no just missed a million misery

200 **innocent** leaders invited

- guilty by association – shoplifting - Ps Ver used to say

- make sure we mix with the right people

Feast – suddenly proclaim Absalom King

Earlier gave **IMPRESSION** - caring
2 Samuel 15:6

6 Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

OT stories – Samson - written?

1 Corinthians 10:11

11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come

Learn from our mistakes – **wiser** – other people's mistakes

We don't have **all the time** to make such mistakes - We have only **ONE** life

Clever intelligent strategy – but unfaithfulness **never** works!

Why was Absalom so bold in rebelling against David?

Cause? Often feel **right** or **justifiable** – root of rebellion

Earlier – killed his half bro – cos he raped his sis

2 Samuel 13:32

32 David's brother, said, "... only Amnon is dead. This has been Absalom's expressed intention ever since the day Amnon raped his sister Tamar.

ABSALOM – angry w Amnon – also angry with DAVID - felt David didn't do THE right thing – didn't punish Amnon enough

Hence, – **not worthy** to rule – not **good enough**
 People who **rebel** – often felt justified
AHITHOPHEL – lead counsel to
 Absalom – stirred up Absalom's to sleep with father's concubine – grandfather of Batheseba – clean cut with father
 Upset – **judged** David as not worthy to rule – not **good enough** – **doing God a favor**
 In contrast Joshua faithful to Moses 40 yrs – slave – ser of man → ser of God
 Why was Joshua faithful despite the weaknesses he saw in Moses?
 Surely seen weakness – but **recog** God does use imperf peo in imperf situation
 Who are we to question God's choice, way and wisdom
 God can **turn** our greatest weakness into our greatest strength
 Joshua must have **leart** from **Miriam**
 Wiser: Learn from mistakes of others
Numbers 12:7
 7 But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house.
 Why are you not afraid to speak against Moses – struck with leprosy
 Public humiliation
 See this in **Paul** ... Called dramatically – yet chose to serve **faithfully** - later **confirmed** by leaders

Acts 13:1-2
 1 In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: **Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen and Saul.**
 2 While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
Real test – not able to sing or preach – cast d – prophecy chun – **behind** scene – serving faithfully – toilet, cell group ... **faithful**
KEY to success - not just the **anointing** – talents - **character** – reflected in submission
 Don't take **SHORT** cuts – end **missing** way – as **DAVID** submit – found his destiny
 So Absalom gave impression – spiritual devoted **sacrificial**
 Observe that those – talk abt sacri – eventually **FAIL**
 Peter – boast – deny
 John – rest in Jesus side
 One that stood with Jesus at the hour of his greatest need
Key to inc: God has set apart the Godly for himself
Godly – root – **HESED** – **obj** of his lovingness – **set you up for blessings**

God will **hear** when I call – not your fasting or giving
 Abrah – Abraham – vision enlarged
 Sarai – Sarah – diff lady – precious and beautiful
John – often described as the disciple whom Jesus loved – does it mean Jesus love others less?
 No – john knows how to rest in his love – **result - 5 occurrences:**
 Just becous you don't feel the love – does not mean God does not love you- key is to learn to rest in his love
 What are the blessings that John experience when he rest on Jesus' love?

John 13:21-25
 21 After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me."
 22 His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. 23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. 24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."
 25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

Notice that - John - lean – rest in his love - has such intimacy
 Contrast – Peter – depend on his own love – create sense of **distance**
 Unsure – never are sure of the relationship
 Got to ask John – Pet only get secondary source
1. Resting in Jesus' love is the secret to intimacy with God
 Key way inside infor and not secondary source: resting in his love
 Great have prophecies – don't **seek** after prophecies – seek the GIVER – God
 If we keep looking for a word, we can end up hearing what we want to hear and got wrong word
 Attentive to the prophetic word – already given
 Take care – hear prophecy that is judgemental and negative (Oh you going to have accident, don't worry I prayed for you). It releases fear, no peace.
 The real test is not how accurate the prophecy is in describing what is happening to you – the d knows that too
 Key Tests: word, peace, Christ centre
 Not controlling – you marry him, you invest in him
 Realise that secrets belong to the Lord

That we don't force to know what the Lord withhold from us for our peace
When you rest in His love, you already have all inside infor you need to know

John 19:25-27

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," 27 and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Ready for the master's use - In a **position** to be used
How **refreshing** to the Lord

2. Resting in Jesus' love makes us ready to serve

John 20:3-4

3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. Supernatural strength – do – called not by human effort
Magnifying glass – tap power of the sun – set wood on fire

3. Resting in Jesus' love releases supernatural power to fulfil our calling

Amazing – one that called fire – kill – **transformed** - become apostle of love –

Fulfil law –without knowing
Billy Graham

John 21:7-9

7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

It is the Lord - Only John recog he

4. Resting in Jesus' love releases divine revelation

153 – Hebrew symbolism – sci called **Gematria** – I am Elohim exactly 153 letters

John **already** know it by resting

Feeling dry – d tempt go after wrong sources Like the disciples fishing –no catch

World: Drinking - \$ - human being (all I want is a husb) – gamble (?)
spectacular signs

Care – lying signs in the last days that even take the elect astray
Rest in his love and enjoy breakfast he prepared

Only one satisfy deepest hunger and thirst

Seek after the person – not things

Psalms 63:1-2

1 A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah.

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Psalms 36:9

For with YOU are the fountain (flow, source) of LIFE, in YOUR light we see light.

Truth is not philo prin – person

Know Him – see discern, perceive, birth forth new life, vision dreams

Best way to rest in his love – sing in tongues

Some peo say – tongues frighten peo away

But if you look at Acts, when they spoke in tongues, 3000 got saved!

Oral Roberts

John 21:20-22

3x – ask – do you love me – agape
Peter now honest: I phileo you – like you – friend – not ready to die
Last time – do you phileo me – go down to their level

Feed lamb – sheep shepherd

Honest – ready to shepherd

3x deny – given oport – restored – affirming – positive – kind of **death**

Upside down

20 Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"

22 Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."

Whereas Peter got to be told to foll John – auto – follow – not need to be told!

5. Resting in Jesus' love puts us in the right place and in the right time

Of all the disciples, only John lived to a right old age – not martyred