

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN IN A TOUGH SPOT

KING MANASSEH

2 CHRONICLES 33:12

Day 29

What do most people do when they are in a tough spot? They are usually afraid, but rather than let that be known, they run. Adam & Eve ran & hid themselves from God (rather ridiculous, yes?). Esau pouted after losing the birthright, so he did some evil things to tick off his family, and then he ran off across the river to Edom. Jonah refused to go minister in Ninevah, so he ran away & was swallowed by a fish. When Elijah the prophet killed the baal worshippers & angered Jezebel, he ran away to Beersheba (a long way).

We run for a lot of reasons: we are disobedient; we did not get what we thought we deserved; we did not want to do what God asked us to do; we felt God had abandoned us through our self-pity; life is not fair; everybody else is doing it but I got caught; nobody really loves me; everything I do fails so why bother trying; I try hard to do what I am asked to do, but the system pays no attention to my efforts; people who I have trusted have let me down; I am not making any progress in my life; people have just forgotten that I exist.

When I am in a tough spot, I usually complain or want to just give up. I might even refuse to read the Bible or pray; why pray to Someone I am mad at. I might stop going to church; why go there & fake it. I sometimes get mad at people & say harsh things to them (I can't get mad at God). I might verbally run myself down & say negative things about myself just to convince myself that I was no good; besides, all these bad things that are happening to me prove that I am no good.

Well, isn't the devil just enjoying all these words!

King Manasseh was in a major bind. Being king did not help here; being smart & strong did not help either. He humbled himself, said he was powerless to fix the problem, and asked God to step in. God does His best work when He is invited into one of our tough spots.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What do you honestly do when you are facing a really tough situation that you have absolutely no control over?
2. Describe a past tough spot that you handled badly. What would you do differently now?

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

What do you need to say to God as you face the topic being discussed in this devotional? Write out your prayer word for word just as if you were praying. Use separate lined paper to record your prayer. Make sure you actually pray this prayer to the Lord. Be honest & be personal. After all, you mean business with God here. You want this area of your life either fixed, strengthened, added, or removed.