

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 30:7-10, 17-25

Introduction: Explain the background story of David and his men...

There is constant war between God's people and their enemies.

You don't even have to look for it, but as it was in David's case, it will come to you!

"Staying By the Stuff"

We want to notice four points from our text this evening, which include:

I. The Condition of Those that Stayed by the Stuff.

1) They were faint (Vv. 9-10).

They were *faint* physically (from continually being on the move and from warfare).

They probably were *faint* spiritually (perhaps they began to question the Lord and what they were doing fighting for David. Hard times often cause God's people to question).

2) They could not go on with David and the others.

It wasn't that they didn't want to go into the battle with the other men. "*To will was present,*" but strength for the battle they found not!

And it wasn't because they were not in favor of the cause! (They also had much at stake.)

But they just **could not** go on! Have you ever been so *faint* that you just couldn't go on?

[Illus] The brook Bezor may have been difficult terrain to cross over.

Perhaps David, being a good leader, was concerned for their welfare, and didn't want to see harm come to his faint soldiers.

Beloved, Jesus our leader is also understanding!

3) The faint consisted of 1/3 of David's entire army.

This was a very large percentage, considering that his army was already very small.

I wonder if 1/3 of the saints of God are *faint* today.

II. There is a Remedy for the Faint.

1) We need rest from those things that are making us faint.

What labors & burdens of life are causing God's people to *faint*?

Perhaps we are cumbered about by too many non-essentials!

Or perhaps we need to take a rest from the things that are important and essential.

Jesus told His disciples in **Mark 6:31** to “**Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while:**” for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

Sometimes we need to take a break. Everyone needs to come apart and rest from time to time.

Vance Havner: “We need to come apart before we come a part!”

The world won't stop if we take a much-needed break. It will go on without us!

Some of us have a hard time understanding this!

2) The faint ones need to be refreshed and revived in the things of the Lord.

We want to notice three ways that we might do this...

First, we are refreshed by waiting on the Lord.

Isaiah 40:29-31 He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have no might* he increaseth strength. **30** Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: **31** But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and they shall walk, and not faint.*

While we are resting from our labors, we need to be refreshed in the things of God.

The waters of the brook Bezor, were cheerful and refreshing to the *faint* soldiers.

And the water of the Word of God is certainly refreshing to weary Christians.

Secondly, we will be refreshed by casting our cares on the Lord.

1Pe 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

There are so many things in our lives that we can do nothing about!

And thirdly, we will be refreshed by renewing our trust in the Lord.

Remember that He is the Almighty Sovereign God of heaven, and nothing is too hard for Him!

3) The third part of the remedy is the faint need healing.

We might need healing of our bodies. Our bodies won't heal properly if we don't nurture them.

We might need healing for our hearts when they get broken.

How often do our hearts get broken! Jesus is the healer of broken hearts.

III. **The Faint have a Duty to Perform.**

1) **The faint are not to quit, just because they are faint!**

This is the worst thing that a professing child of God can do, is to quit serving the Lord!

We must not give up and abandon our post in the Lord's army. This will only make our lives 10 times worse!

2) **The faint are to stay by the stuff!**

While we are resting, reviving, and healing, we are to stay by the stuff.

3) **We want to look at some of the "stuff".**

There is the camp of the Lord by the brook Bezor. Today, this is Lord's Church where we are camped until our Lord's return.

There is the armor of the saints.

- The armor consists of the girdle of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

All these are among the "stuff" that are to be found in the Lord's Church. It is exceedingly important that we "stay by stuff" as weary Christians.

4) **What does it mean to stay by the stuff?**

- It means to attend it.
- To stay close by it, and not let it out of their sight.
- To abide in the camp with it.
- It means to guard and protect it.

There is nothing more valuable in all the world than our spiritual provisions.

So, we see then, even the *faint* has a job to do, even while we are resting and refreshing and healing, there are still some things we must do!

Last of all...

IV. **The Blessings and Rewards for the Saints who "stay by the stuff."**

(READ **Verses 22-25**)

1) **We see that their rewards and blessings were the same as those who went to battle.**

This might not seem fair, but the faint were doing all that they were able to do!

2) **We need to be careful not to judge and condemn those who are "faint."**

Remember, everyone becomes *faint* at times.

The spiritually strong are to help restore and encourage the faint in the way; not condemn them!

This is not to be understood to mean that all saints will receive the same rewards, we know this is not the case.

But it does mean that those who are *faint*, who stay by the stuff while the others do the fighting, will receive the rewards and the blessings of the Lord too!

David was so emphatic about this, that He made this practice a statute and an ordinance in all of Israel when He became king.

Conclusion:

Are you a *faint* Christian this evening? If not, praise the Lord you are not!

But if you aren't one of the *faint* this morning, the probability is that you will be sooner or later.

Are you a servant who is not in "the limelight?"

An application for the latter could easily be made in this text as well!

Thank the Lord that there is a remedy for *faint* believers. There is rest for the weary.

May the Lord help you to find that rest. There is refreshing waters of the Word of God that will renew your strength.

Closing: Hudson Taylor said, "*Be God's man in God's place doing God's work in God's way!*"

He goes on to say:

"1. We will be judged by the truth/light we had. 2. The Opportunity we were given. 3. What we did with our opportunity."

In short, "was it our best?!"