

Sunday, June 21, 2026

Message Series: Hope Changes Everything

Today's Message: **DISCOURAGEMENT DESTROYS**

**Numbers 32:1-9 ESV**

32 Now the people of Reuben and the people of Gad had a very great number of livestock. And they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, and behold, the place was a place for livestock. 2 So the people of Gad and the people of Reuben came and said to Moses and to Eleazar the priest and to the chiefs of the congregation, 3 "Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo, and Beon, 4 the land that the Lord struck down before the congregation of Israel, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock." 5 And they said, "If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants for a possession. Do not take us across the Jordan."

6 But Moses said to the people of Gad and to the people of Reuben, "Shall your brothers go to the war while you sit here? 7 Why will you **discourage** the heart of the people of Israel from going over into the land that the Lord has given them? 8 Your fathers did this, when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to see the land. 9 For when they went up to the Valley of Eshcol and saw the land, they **discouraged** the heart of the people of Israel from going into the land that the Lord had given them.

**Discouragement-without h\_\_\_\_\_ -to deprive of courage or hope-being b\_\_\_\_\_ out-  
having no expectation of a favorable outcome.**

**1) Discouragement is a u\_\_\_\_\_ disease. We all get it!**

Q-Have you felt discouraged at any time in the past two months?

**2) Discouragement is a r\_\_\_\_\_ disease. You will catch it more than  
once; it is not like Chicken Pox. Discouragement is a disease that repeats as often  
as you let it.**

**3) Discouragement is a c\_\_\_\_\_ disease. You can catch it from  
discouraging people. I believe there are two types of people: those who  
b\_\_\_\_\_ people up and those who t\_\_\_\_\_ people down.**

**4) Discouragement is always c\_\_\_\_\_ . It always has a cause.**

Discouragement comes from **three sources**:

- ✓ Circumstances. Stuff happens. Unexpected bills, health problems, taxes go up again.
- ✓ O\_\_\_\_\_ p\_\_\_\_\_. Somebody says something negative or does something hurtful and harmful.
- ✓ M\_\_\_\_\_. My main source of discouragement is myself.

Q-How do you deal with discouragement?

Remember Elijah? He was one of the most famous Old Testament prophets. (I Kings 19) In the familiar story of I Kings 19, what four hundred prophets of Baal could not do, one woman was able to accomplish. Jezebel outraged that Elijah's God trumped her false prophets, screamed an oath that she would kill him. Elijah lost hope, he got discouraged and he made things worse by doing some things in rapid succession, all of which were destructive.

- **He started making rash; unhealthy decisions.**
- **He ran from r\_\_\_\_\_.**
- **He b\_\_\_\_\_ other people.**
- **He completely lost p\_\_\_\_\_.**
- **He gave up too s\_\_\_\_\_.**

**5) Discouragement is d\_\_\_\_\_. It kills!**

You will get down-the k\_\_\_\_\_ is not to stay there.

*Deuteronomy 8:7-10 ESV*

*7 For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, 8 a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, 9 a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. 10 And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.*

**Dear First Baptist Church, (Lakefront and Downtown)**

Over the next several weeks, we are going to be studying some factors that act as antidotes to discouragement. They are so powerful, but they will only be information if you don't surrender yourself to Christ, to His Lordship and to His way, not yours.

**What will you do?**