

When Life Gives You Difficult People When Life Gives You Lemons Series, Part 4

Intro

Dealing with difficult people is a tough thing to do... but I believe it's harder for a follower of Christ because we're called to love everyone.

1. Some people are just difficult. Most people who interact with them have a problem.
2. Sometimes it's a personality clash between us and another person.
3. Or maybe it's someone who just doesn't like YOU for some reason- jealous, or resentful, or it could be spiritual, even a spiritually frustrated Christian.

Part 1: David's dealings with difficult people

I. David Anointed King

A. (1 Samuel 16) Saul rejected, and Samuel went to the home of Jesse to anoint a new king. Jesse brought 7 of his sons to the ceremony but God told Samuel it was neither of them. Samuel asked if there were any more sons. David was called in and anointed.

II. David in Saul's Service

A. Saul is battling a spirit that is tormenting him, and his servant suggest getting someone who plays the lyre (harp) to relieve him of this spirit

B. **18 One of the servants answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the lyre. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the Lord is with him." 1 Samuel 16:18 (NIV)**

1. God will open doors for you that you could not have opened yourself. God anointed David for something, and He was going to pave the way for him to get there.

III. David and Goliath

A. So, David is working for Saul going back and forth feeding sheep and to the palace

B. His 3 oldest brothers followed Saul into war against the philistines and David is bringing food to them

C. David overhears Goliath blaspheming Israel and gets angry and asks "who is this guy?"

D. 28 When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle." 1 Samuel 17:28 (NIV)

1. The first difficult person David had to deal with in this story was his brother.
2. Sometimes it's family that we have to deal with.
3. Why was Eliab so mad? It could have been resentment.
4. David was just doing what he was told.
5. Eliab attacked David's character (called him wicked and conceited).

A. 29 "Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?" 30 He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. 1 Samuel 17:29-30 (NIV)

1. Sometimes we have to turn away and continue.
2. Sometimes we shift our focus from the mission and focus on who/what the enemy is using to slow down the mission

IV. David advancing

A. David defeats Goliath and becomes successful wherever he went so Saul promotes him to be leader of the army SAUL LOVES HIM. but then things change

B. 6 When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals.[a] 7 This was their song: "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!" 8 This made Saul very angry. "What's this?" he said. "They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they'll be making him their king!" 1 Samuel 18:6-8 (NLT)

C. Now David is getting too much shine and Saul is jealous and feels threatened.

1. When God is working in our lives, and we find ourselves in positions we never would have imagined. There will be people that don't like it.
2. Saul then tried to kill David time and time again but was unsuccessful.
3. Sometimes it could be someone we work with or work for that could be difficult to work with (probably not out to kill you)
4. David responded to this persecution by Saul by sparing his life TWICE

a. 5 But then David's conscience began bothering him because he had cut Saul's robe. 6 He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do this to my lord the king. I shouldn't attack the Lord's anointed one, for the Lord himself has chosen him." 1 Samuel 24:5-6 (NLT)

b. David looked past the evil being done to him and saw Saul the way God saw him.

Part 2: What should we do when dealing with difficult people?

I. Deny yourself

A. 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24 (ESV)

1. If you're a follower of Christ.
 2. Denying yourself means to go against what you want; give up your own way.
 3. He goes further by picking up his cross.
- a. Picking up your cross means dying to yourself

II. Make peace

A. "Work at living in peace with everyone..." Hebrews 12:14 (NLT)

1. Jesus said "blessed are the peacemakers because they will be called the children of God".
2. If we are children of God, NO MATTER WHAT we should be looking to make peace, even when the other person is wrong.
3. (Finish story)

III. Love

A. 44 But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! 45 In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.

Matthew 5:44-45 (NLT)

1. The only way we can love our enemies is by separating the flaws from the person and that is done through the power of the Holy Spirit.

B. 46 If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. 47 If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. Matthew 5:46-47 (NLT)

1. The love we show difficult people, separates us from the people of the world.

IV. Don't Give Up

A. 9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

1. It gets tiring when we feel like we're always the ones being the bigger person, but God will bless us for it.