

# Disappointed?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Disappointment is something that is difficult to deal with, isn't it? Face it, there are a lot of disappointments in this life. Some are bigger than others, but all are hurtful to us. Disappointed in the preacher? Remember he is human, with all the concerns and problems that everyone else has. Ministers have wants, needs, concerns, hurts, anger, weaknesses, faults and failures just like men everywhere.

I don't believe that there has ever been a believer in the Lord that has not been disappointed and discouraged at some time, or times, in his, or her, life. Look at Moses and you will see one who was close to the Lord and yet, at times he was miserable with disappointment with the way things were going and with the people. Joseph, Daniel, and the other people of the bible faced the same trials, and worse, that we do, but they trusted the Lord and endured by faith.

Can't you imagine the scene as the faithful of the bible were tested for their faith? Take Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego for an example. In Daniel chapter three all of the people were ordered to worship the image of gold set up by the king. Anyone who dared to disobey the king's order was to be thrown

in the fire to die.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not the only Jews that were captives in Babylon. There were many others who were in the same position, but they feared the order of the king and went along. There had to be some who told the three men that they had better go through the motions of bowing to the image to avoid death. Wouldn't Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego have been disappointed to see all the others bow down to worship the image? They might have been called crazy, or a lot worse, but they feared God more than they did the king. Instead of being encouraged and supported by their brethren they were left to face the wrath of the king, standing in the faith of the Lord. They endured the fire and the anger of the king because God, and God alone, didn't disappoint them.

Sometimes we are disappointed in people and it hurts. It may be by what they have done, or by what they didn't do. What do we do when people hurt us by their actions and words? Do we get angry and break fellowship with them, or try to understand and forgive them? The Lord Jesus told us to forgive our brother who had offended us. This was not to be done once, but as many times as he asked forgiveness and repented. "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until

seven times: but, Until seventy times seven," **Matthew 18:21-22.**

What if it is the preacher who has disappointed and offended us? Does that change anything, or the way that we should handle the situation? The preacher is just a man after all. He is sometimes disappointed in people who do not take the word of God seriously. When folks forsake the church and refuse to serve, or to do anything, but come once in awhile it is disappointing to those who try to do what they can to serve the Lord. So, the preacher, like everyone else, can be offended and can offend others. As someone has said, "We are a family and in a family there are times that we have conflict. We have to love one another, forgive and go on."

There is one more thought to consider on the subject of being disappointed. We usually think about how we have been disappointed and hurt by others, but don't think that maybe we have been a disappointment to someone else. Yes, it can and does happen that we, in a moment of anger, hurt, passion, greed, or whatever, may say, or do something that offends someone else. If and when that happens what will we do about it? When we realize that an offense has occurred we need to go to the offended party and ask for forgiveness. And in every case we, both sides, need to ask God to forgive and to help us all as we go through this life.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

**SAMUEL AND SAUL**  
SAMUEL, FOLLOWING GOD'S ORDER, HAS TOLD SAUL HE WILL BE KING OF ISRAEL... THEN HE SENDS SAUL HOME AND ISSUES A COMMAND FOR ALL THE TRIBES TO MEET TOGETHER AT MIZPEH, NOW....

...FAST, YOUNG MEN SPEED THE MESSAGE TO EVERY DISTANT PART OF THE LAND...

...ANSWERING THE CALL, THE PEOPLE HASTILY CONVERGE UPON THE APPOINTED PLACE!

...TO BE READ BY ALL THE ELDERS IN EACH TRIBE...

AND SO THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL GATHER AT MIZPEH FOR THIS GREAT OCCASION— A HOLIDAY SPIRIT PREVAILS AS OLD FRIENDSHIPS ARE RENEWED— THERE ARE SONGS, GAMES, AND LAUGHTER....

...BUT THERE IS ONE WHO DOES NOT TAKE PART IN ALL THIS GAY EXCITEMENT— ONE WHOSE HUGE FIGURE SKULKS LIKE A CRIMINAL— WHO PEERS OUT FROM HIS HIPING PLACE, IN THE DARK REFUGE OF THE FOOD STORAGE TENT, LIKE A HUNTED ANIMAL!

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