

MANAGING FOR THE MASTER Till He Comes



Sabbath School Lesson 11 | Mar 11 – Mar 17

Sabbath School Lesson Notes Outline

"Managing in Tough Times"

A Who will defend us in tough times?

- ❖ King Jehoshaphat was ready for war (2 Chronicles 17:2, 12-13). However, he was aware of his limitations. He couldn't deal with the coalition that were threatening him (2 Chronicles 20:1-2).
- ❖ He didn't seek help from other people to face this crisis, but he turned to the only One who could actually help him: God (2 Chronicles 20:3-12).
- ❖ This was not a decision driven by fear or defenselessness. Josaphat was used to serve God (2 Chronicles 17:3-4; 19:4). He knew that he could trust Him.
- ❖ Do you have such a daily experience with God that will help you trust Him in moments of crisis?

B Who could we trust?

- ❖ David knew that no human could save him (Psalm 146:3). He learnt from Jonathan's experience that God doesn't need a powerful army to overcome His enemies (1 Samuel 14:6, 13, 23).
- ❖ However, he was tempted by Satan and wanted to know how many soldiers he had (1 Chronicles 21:1-2). It was not prohibited, but David was showing that he was trusting his military strength more than God.
- ❖ God is above all things. We must come to Him first before resorting to human resources.

C What could we keep?

- ❖ During the final tribulation we won't be able to buy or sell. If we have anything left after that, it will be destroyed by fire (2 Peter 3:10-11).
- ❖ So should we get rid of everything we have now since we won't be able to keep it?
- ❖ No, unless the Holy Spirit clearly tells us to do so. We're stewards of everything God has given us until Jesus comes back. We must manage it wisely and faithfully.
- ❖ Yet, we must always remember that whatever we accumulate here is transitory; fleeting; and, if we are not careful, has the potential to be spiritually corrupting.

D What will be our priorities?

- ❖ We will have to decide in some moment: either to serve God and lose our possessions, or to keep them and serve someone who's not worthy to be served.

- ❖ Our decision in that moment will depend on the decisions we make today (Matthew 6:24).
- ❖ The apostle John said, “Do not love the world or the things in the world.” (1 John 2:15)
- ❖ What’s bad in the “world” that moves us away from God (1 John 2:16)?

E How can we prepare for tough times?

- ❖ If we don’t submit to the powers governing the world in the end times but remain faithful to God, we will lose our jobs and our possessions (Revelation 13:14-17). However, we can be sure that God will take care of us (2 Thessalonians 3:3; Psalm 34:19).
- ❖ How can we prepare for those moments?
- ❖ Learning to trust God and to live relying on Him today. A good test is to be faithful with our tithes. If we fail in something so small, how could we remain faithful in the forthcoming crisis (Jeremiah 12:5)?