

***In Isaiah 30*** Judah, in the time of Isaiah the Prophet, was seeking alliances and direction from foreign powers who did not have their best interests in mind to implement a plan against their enemies by refusing to listen to God's instructions and the plans He had for them. After Judah had suffered significant losses for the ungodly alliance and cried out and was willing to return to God in despair, He intervened, by giving them the right direction to healing and restoration.

***In Verse 20*** after much sorrow and repentance God granted Judah restoration. And though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide Himself anymore, but your eyes will constantly behold your Teacher.

- *Who or what you are listening to will determine the direction your life will go.*

**Verse 21** And your ears will hear a word behind you, saying, This is the way; walk in it, when you turn to the right hand and when you turn to the left. (AMP)

- *God can't take us to a promise without first taking us through a process.*

*A process is a series of actions or steps taken to achieve a particular destination.*

*Let's talk about:*

## ***Finding Divine Counsel in A Crisis.***

*A Crisis: Is a time of intense difficulty of confusion and danger.*

- *Having an encounter with God requires us to have a listening ear for his instruction to navigate any crisis we are facing.*

- *We cannot only be listening to what we want to hear; we need to listen to what we need to hear.*

### ***How do we find direction in a crisis?***

*In a crisis, we need to discern God's voice from the noise of other voices around us.*

*An example of this is found in the narrative of Acts 27. The apostle Paul's journey to Rome was under severe storms for many days with no favorable winds to get him to his destination in Rome, as they were leaving from the port of Fair haven. Paul strongly advised against the dangerous journey ahead, but the sea captain ignored him.*

**Verse 9** Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, **10** saying,

“Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives.” **11** Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul. (NKJV)

*After they had been through many human efforts to stay the course, they lost all hope for reaching their destination.*

**Verse 20** Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on *us*, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up.

- *In every transition there is uncertainty.*

**Verse 21.** But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me, and not

have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss. **22** And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.

- *In a crisis, your focus should not be on what you have lost more than what you have left.*

*Paul was instructed to look at the crisis not as an opposition but an opportunity.*

**Verse 23** For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, **24** saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.' **25** Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.

(NKJV)

- *There will always be triumph in crisis if we remain emotionally stable and do not give up.*

**Verse 31** Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”

- *Even though the circumstances were opposite of God's word they had to trust the process in being directed in what to do.*

**Verse 34** Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, for this is for your survival, since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you.”

**Verse 44** and the rest, some on boards and some on *parts* of the ship. And so, it was that they all escaped safely to land. (NKJV)

*It can be very difficult to hear God's voice in the noise of a crisis.*

*The apostle Paul had to anchor his faith in the integrity of God's word and not the surrounding crisis they were in.*

*We can't allow our feelings to be projected on the word of God when he is directing us.*

*We need to adapt to the changes that are necessary to survive a crisis.*