

Sermon-Based Questions
January 20, 2019
Dave Gustavsen

Paradox
Weakness is Strength
Luke 22:39-46

Introduction (choose 1):

1. Based on the book *David and Goliath* by Malcolm Gladwell, which of his two interpretations better represents weakness to strength based on your experience?
 - One group triumphed in spite of their disabilities: they were so smart and so creative that nothing-not even a lifetime of struggling with reading-could stop them.
 - The second group succeeded, in part, because of their disorder-that they learned something in their struggle that proved to be of enormous advantage.
2. What hardship in your life has helped you to get to the next level?

Understanding (choose 4-6):

3. Read *Luke 22:42*. How do you see weakness and submission working together?
4. Read *Luke 22:43-44*. Even after the angel had come and strengthened Jesus, it says He was in anguish as He continued to pray. Was this still due to weakness?
5. Dave told us that both Jesus and Paul had prayed a request 3 times and God said no. Are you discouraged when God says no, or do you see it as an opportunity to look for what else He is doing?
6. How does one go about accepting his “thorn in the flesh” and letting God’s grace be sufficient?
7. Dave said, “Don’t confuse weakness with sin”. What did he mean by that?
8. How different would it look if we viewed our weakness through pride or through humbleness?
9. Weakness is, at times, viewed as failure. How would our outlook change if instead, we viewed it as access to God and His strength?

Application:

10. We have looked at two Biblical examples, Jesus and Paul, that we don't normally equate with weakness. We now see they knew their weakness could be filled with God's strength. What do you need to recognize, accept, and turn over to God?

11. We have the choice of letting our weakness rule our lives, or we can let it deepen our dependence on God, raise our appreciation for grace and allow it to teach us compassion. Which way will you choose?

January 20, 2019

Lectio Divina

1. **Opening Prayer:** Ask God for insight into His Word, for open hearts and minds, for hunger to know Him better, and for an attitude of learning from one another.
2. **Reading:** Have someone from your group read the passage aloud. It is best to print out a copy for each group member so they can read along, make notes, or go back as needed.
3. **Meditation:** Spend *an entire minute in complete silence*, contemplating what was just read. Feel free to re-read the passage quietly to yourself or jot down thoughts/highlight what stuck out to you.
4. **Sharing:** At the leader's signal, invite group members to share their insights for about 5 minutes.
5. **Repeat:** After the 5 minutes are over, repeat the process 2 more times using the same passage. Listen/read like you haven't heard this passage before. If there are longer moments of silence, the leader can prompt discussion with the following questions:
 1. What did you hear and what seems important?
 2. What is the Holy Spirit impressing on you?
 3. What does it make you think of from your life?

Luke 22:39-46

³⁹Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." ⁴¹He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴²"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ⁴³An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.⁴⁵ When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. ⁴⁶"Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that

Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.