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IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

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David had come to check on his brothers and found Israel in a mess. The giant Philistine, Goliath, was mocking the armies of Israel (and therefore God!). No one was stepping forward to stand up to the blasphemous attacks of the pagan champion. After David assesses the situation, he asks what will the conqueror of this Philistine receive? His oldest brother, Eliab reacts anger, disdain, and suspicion of David's motives. Responding to his brother, David says this in 1 Samuel 17:29, And David said, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?"

David had recognized the slight towards God, realized that nobody was going to stand up for Him, and volunteered to face the giant warrior. From a human standpoint, it did not make sense... But from the viewpoint of God, it was a glorious affirmation of faith.

Israel found herself in a similar situation without a champion in Ezekiel's day. Listen to some of God's rebuke in Ezekiel 22:26. Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them. [27] Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get dishonest gain. [28] Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' when the LORD had not spoken. [29] The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger.

What was God's reaction to this sorry state of affairs? Verse 30 says, "So I (God) sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

God was looking for another David to stand in the gap for Him, and He couldn't find a single one. The good news is that we can be like David, people after God's own heart! We can decide to stand in the gap and up to the giants that we encounter in this life! May we all be like David because there really is a cause worth standing up for.

God bless. Pat