

But we are not God. We don't know why He has called human beings to face horrible things like this; but "it is what it is" and we have to learn to deal with it, and like the Twelve, start rowing.

When Alex Trebeck, the famous host of "Jeopardy", learned he had Pancreatic Cancer he announced it like this; he said, "I learned this week that I am one of fifty-five thousand people in America who will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year." And he started rowing – living his life the best that he could.

Christians seem to have a harder time with this than others. Trying to live for God, we wonder why He has done this to us. In almost every instance, He has not done anything to us. Life has done it to us, as it does for everybody else.

When we are shattered by suffering, we usually say, "**Why me?**" When we learn how untold thousands are facing what we are facing, we usually say, "**Why not me?**"

We know God has not promised to spare His children the ordinary pains of life. If He did, we could not build enough churches to hold all the people, who would come for the wrong reasons.

As Christians, we should move on to **praying**. And our prayer should be, "**What now?** Lord, show me where to row and give me the strength to row." Then we should ask God to heal us, (or the one we love); and if that is not His will, to help us deal with it.

We see this in Simon Peter, when he walked on the water and went down in the water; because he looked at the waves instead of Jesus. He cried out, "Lord help me!"

In praying, we must practice **believing**.

Hebrews 11 says:

"Without faith it is impossible to please God; because anyone who comes to Him, **must** believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly look for Him. (11:6)

When healing does not come, we must believe that God will help us make it through – to row where we are supposed to row. When I was in elementary school, national surveys were taken every year and people were asked to name the person they admired the most – male and female. Almost every year it was Helen Keller.

Helen was born unable to hear, unable to talk and unable to see. Seeing a baby like that, our first thought might be that it would have better if she had died at birth. But she grew into a remarkable lady. One time, discussing suffering she said, "Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of suffering".

Sometimes we **may not see** the answer when it comes. When Jesus showed up walking on top of the water, through the wind and waves; they thought He was a ghost (v.50). They didn't recognize Him when He came.

I talked one day with a lady who said that she had lost her faith in God and her desire to serve Him. Her mother, in her late fifties, died suddenly with a heart attack. Trying to console her, I said, "Well, at least you can be thankful that she did not have to linger and suffer."

The lady answered, "Mother always prayed that God would spare her from suffering and going to a nursing home." And then I said, "It could be that your mother's death, was the answer to her prayer."

God, help all of us to build our lives on the practice of prayer, with the faith that Your answers are always best. Amen!

"When you pray for rain, carry your umbrella." - Evangelist Sam Jones

"God always wants to know what we want the most; His hand or the coin in His hand."

- Helmut Theilicke