

LIFE: DISAPPOINTMENTS, DIFFICULTIES, AND DISASTERS

TEXT: JOB 23:1-10

LIFE IS FULL OF UNCERTAINTIES, WE FIND IT PRESENTS BOTH SORROWS AND HAPPINESS. BUT IT ALSO PRESENTS OTHER CHALLENGES THAT WE MUST RELY ON THE LORD FOR HIS HELP IN NEGOTIATING THROUGH THE MAZE OF EVENTS LIFE PRESENTS TO EACH OF US. AND REMEMBER EVERY DAY IS A SPECIAL DAY THAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN AND NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN EACH DAY, IT A SPECIAL DAY; A SPECIAL OCCASSION, TO ENJOY GOD'S PRESENCE AND THAT OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL HE PUTS IN OUR LIFE.

A MAN OPENED THE DRAWER ON HIS WIFE'S DRESSER AND PICKED UP AN ITEM THAT WAS STILL WRAPPED IN THE TISSUE PAPER. HE HANDS IT TO HIS SISTER-IN-LAW AND SAID:" THIS IS NOT A SLIP IT'S LONGERIE. THE SISTER-IN-LAW UNWRAPS ITS AND FINDS A BEAUTIFUL SLIP MADE OF THE SOFTEST SILK AND NOTICED THE PRICE TAG WAS STILL ON IT. SHE LOOKS AT HER BROTHER-IN-LAW WITH A PUZZLED LOOK. HE SAID, "SHE GOT WHEN WE WENT TO NEW YORK LAST YEAR, SHE SAID SHE WAS SAVING IT FOR A SPECIAL OCCASSION, WELL HE SAID, " I GUESS TODAY IS FINALLY THAT SPECIAL OCCASSION." HE TAKES IT BACK FROM HIS SISTER-IN-LAW AND THROWS IT ON THE BED WITH THE REST OF THE CLOTHING HE WAS TAKING TO THE MORTUARY LATER THAT AFTERNOON. HE SLAMS THE DRAWER ON THE DRESSER CLOSED AND SAID TO HIS SISTER-IN-LAW: "NEVER SAVE ANYTHING FOR A SPECIAL OCCASSION, EVERY DAY IS A SPECIAL OCCASSION.

LIFE IS SO UNCERTAIN AND WE TEND TO TAKE EVERY DAY FOR GRANTED AND NEVER SEE IT AS A SPECIAL OCCASSION WITH SPECIAL CHALLENGES. AND WE TEND TO THINK WE ARE IN CHARGE ONLY TO FIND OUT OUR CAPABILITIES ARE VERY LIMITED AND MUCH LESS THAN WE THINK THEM TO BE WHEN WE FIRST ENCOUNTER: DISAPPOINTMENTS, DIFFICULTIES AND DISASTERS.

WHAT IS DISASTER? According to Webster, a disaster is, a sudden calamitous event that brings damage, loss or destruction: a sudden or great misfortune or failure. A disaster certainly would be a terrible storm, tornado, hurricane, earthquake, volcanic eruption, explosion, devastating fire, attack, etc. A disaster could also be, an accident that caused permanent injury, a massive accident causing multiple deaths and injures, a victim of a violent crime, a horrifying relationship, financial ruin, etc.

DISAPPOINTMENTS: SOMETHING THAT FAILS TO MEET OUR EXPECTATIONS

DIFFICULTY: WHEN WE ARE FACED WITH SOMETHING DIFFICULT TO OVERCOME

DISASTER:A GREAT CALAMITY THAT BRINGS LOSS OR DESTRUCTION

SINCE A FORMAL DEFINITION FROM A DICTIONARY DOES NOT CONTAIN A DEFINITION THAT ALL CAN IDENTIFY WITH I BROUGHT 3 EXAMPLES:

DISAPPOINTMENT: YOU MAY NOT GET THE JOB YOU WANTED, BUT YOU CAN OVERCOME THAT BY SIMPLY CHANGING EXPECTATIONS,

DIFFICULTY: YOU LOOSE YOUR JOB DUE TO DOWNSIZING, JOB PERFORMANCE OR POLITICS, BUT YOU CAN OVERCOME THAT BY FINDING A NEW JOB

DISASTER: YOU LOOSE YOUR ABILITY TO DO YOUR JOB BECAUSE OF ILLNESS, DISEASE, OR ACCIDENT. WHICH BECOMES MORE PERMANENT. WHAT TO DO ABOUT THAT BECAUSE IT SIMPLY OUT OF YOUR CONTROL.

FOUR STEPS TO OVERCOMING DISASTER

I. RESIST THE URGER TO BLAME GOD

A. JOB'S WIFE: "CURSE GOD AND DIE" JOB 2:9

B. MARTHA: "IF YOU HAD BEEN HERE..." JOHN 11:21

C. PEOPLE HAVE THE ERRONEOUS IDEA THAT GOD BRINGS DISASTER, DEATH AND DESTRUCTION, BUT THAT IS NOT WITHIN THE CHARACTER OF GOD.

D. SATAN BRINGS DISASTER AND DESTRUCTION

E. "And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in YOUR POWER; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord." (Job 1:12, NKJV)

F. "So SATAN went out from the presence of the Lord, and STRUCK Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head." (Job 2:7, NKJV)

C. GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF CONFUSION AND CHAOS.

D. JOB'S DISASTER ALLOWED GOD TO PROVE TO SATAN AND US THAT WE CAN RETAIN OUR CHARACTER EVEN IN DISATER.

E. BLAME DAMAGES THE RELATIONSHIP AND PREVENTS HEALING

F. IN ALL OF THIS JOB SINNED NOT, NOR CHARGED GOD FOOLISHLY (JOB 1:22, KJV)

II. RETAIN YOUR INTEGRITY

INTEGRITY--INTERGER FROM HIGH SCHOOL ALGEBRA--WHOLE, COMPLETE, NOT PARTIAL

A. THROUGH HUMILITY - "Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground before God. He said, "I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will be stripped of everything when I die. The Lord gave me everything I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!" In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God." (Job 1:20-22, NLT)

1. TORE HIS ROBE AS A SIGN OF SORROW, SHAVED HIS HEAD AS A SIGN OF MOURNING, FELL ON HIS FACE BEFORE GOD AS A SIGN OF HUMILITY

2. WORSHIPPED JEHOVAH AS THE PROVIDER OF ALL THINGS AND CONSECRATED HIMSELF TO LEAVE THE WORLD JUST AS HAD CAME INTO IT.

3. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE AUTHORITY OF GOD AND REFUSED TO SIN.

B. COMMITTED TO GOD- "His wife said to him, "Are you still trying to maintain your integrity? Curse God and die." But Job replied, "You talk like a FOOLISH woman. Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?"(James 1:13-16; Mat. 6:13) So in all this, Job said nothing wrong." (Job 2:9-10,)

C. REMAIN CONFIDENT IN A POSITIVE OUTCOME: "...WHEN HE HAS TRIED ME, I SHALL COME FORTH AS GOLD." (Job 23:10)

D. CONTROLLING YOUR TONGUE - "...MY LIFPS SHALL NOT SPEAK WICKEDNESS NOR MY TONGUE UTTER DECEIT." (Job 27:4, NLT)

III. RENEW YOUR FAITH.

A. "FOR I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH, THAT HE SHALL STAND AT THE LATTER DAY UPON THE EARTH" JOB 19:25

THEN JOB ANSWERED THE LORD AND SAID: i KNOW THAT THOU CANST DO EVERYTHING, AND THAT NO THOUGHT CAN BE WITHOLDEN FROM THEE. WHO IS HE THAT HEDETH COUNSEL WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE? THEREFORE I UTTERED THAT I UNDERSTOOD NOT; THINGS TOO WONDEFUL FOR ME WHICH I KNEW NOT. HEAR, I BESEECH THEE AND I WILL SPEAK; I WILL DEMAND THEE AND DECLARE THOU UNTO ME . I HAVE HEARD OF THEE BY THE HEARING OF THE EAR, BUT NOW MINE EYE HATH SEEN THEE. WHEREFORE I ABHOR MYSELF AND REPENT IN ASHES" (Job 42:1-6, KJV)

C. RENEW YOUR FAITH IN THE WORD

D. RENEW YOUR FAITH IN PRAYER

E. RENEW YOUR FAITH IN FELLOWSHIP

IV. REST IN THE COMFORTING PRESENCE OF GOD.

Illustration: The state motto of Oklahoma is Labor Omnia Vincit, which means Labor conquers all things. Hard work and labor are good and necessary parts of overcoming a disaster; however, the best way to overcome disaster is by allowing Christ, the Wonderful Counselor to initiate the healing process. Labor does not conquer all things, but the labor of Christ does. Jesus said, "COME UNTO ME ALL YOU THAT LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST." (MATTHEW 11:28)

A. WHEN YOU REST IN GOD YOU WILL DISCOVER HIS LOVE AND CARE FOR YOU. "THOU HAST GRANTED ME LIFE AND FAVOUR, AND THY VISITATION HATH PRESERVED MY SPIRIT. (JOB 10:12)

B. WHEN YOU REST IN GOD YOU WILL LEARN FROM HIM. "WITH HIM (GOD) IS WISDOM AND STRENGTH, HE HATH COUNSEL AND UNDERSTANDING." (JOB 12:13)

C. WHEN YOU REST IN GOD YOU EXPECT HIS WILL FOR YOUR LIFE AND HAVE PEACE AND TRAQUILITY AS NEVER BEFORE.

V. FINAL THOUGHTS

A. ALL OF US FACE DISASTER IF YOU HAVE NOT YET YOU WILL

B. HOW WE HANDLE IT IS BASED ON PREPARATION AND COMMITMENT

C. DON'T LET FRUSTRATION AND FEAR CAUSE YOU TO BLAME GOD AS IF HE CAUSED IT TO HAPPEN OR WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT YOU

D. RETAIN YOUR INTEGRITY--DON'T GIVE UP AND SIN

**E. REST IN HIM NO MATTER WHAT THE ISSUE: DISAPPOINTMENT, DIFFICULTY, OR DISASTER
PRAYER AND ALTAR CALL**