

**FRIDAY, April 23, 2010:**

Job 5:17 *“Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects...”*

Chapter five is a good chapter. Job’s old buddy, Eliphaz, says a lot of good things. Matter of fact, he offers the “ideal.” When everything is working the way it is supposed to, you can be assured that it comes right out of chapter five of the book of Job!

Unfortunately, life seldom comes in neat little packages. Life comes a lot of times with no packaging – it’s just thrown at us and we have to make the best of it.

The way I picked up on the idealism of Eliphaz’s words was when I read verse 17. “Happy is the man whom God corrects” (!?). Who is Eliphaz kidding? I’ve been “corrected” by God many times and I can tell you it was not a happy experience. I was happy **after** the correcting but not when it was happening.

My point is this: it is so easy to come across (to people that really need to hear the message of the Bible) as super spiritual. We have a neat little theory and an air tight argument for every problem and question they have. But the problem is, life doesn’t work that way and people know it. So when we insult them by being “super spiritual” we end up turning them away from the real answer – Jesus Christ. Remember, people most often don’t need an answer from us; they need us to point them to the One who is the answer.

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 23:9**

*“I fully realize that I have not succeeded in answering all your questions. Indeed, I feel I have not answered any of them completely. The answers I have found only serve to raise a whole new set of questions, which only lead to more questions, some of which we weren’t ever aware were problems. To sum it all up: In some ways I feel we are as confused as ever, but I do believe we are confused on a higher level, and about more important things.”*

\_Steve Brown, *Follow the Wind*

**SATURDAY, April 24, 2010:**

Job 6:14 *“To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend, even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.”*

Over the years, I’ve seen a lot of good men and women really mess up their lives. Falling from grace can be ugly.

But there is something even uglier that I’ve seen happen, I’ve seen the church shoot their own wounded.

A lot of people have been hurt deeply by the church. In their hour of failure they were considered an embarrassment and abandoned by the church.

However, real friends continue to stand by their friends, even when they are wrong. It doesn’t mean that you condone what they are doing, but real friends remember that their friendship is based on love, not whether or not someone has their act together.

For we “PEPers, people must matter even when they are down. I’m thankful that that is what happens at the FMCOG.

**SCRIPTURE: James 5:19-20**



**Pastor Kemp’s Weekly Devotional**

*For the week of April 18, 2010*

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

*What I am thankful for this week:*

MONDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

TUESDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

WEDNESDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

THURSDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

FRIDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

SATURDAY: \_\_\_\_\_



**MONDAY, April 19, 2010:**

Job 1:21 *"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."*

As you have probably noticed by now, for the last several weeks I have taken us through the Bible one chapter at a time. I started in Nehemiah and then Esther and now it is time to start on the book of Job. To be honest, I have sort of been dreading it. Job is not a "fun" book. It is a reminder that there's a lot going on behind the scenes that we do not know about.

If the truth be known, there is a lot going on behind the scenes in your life and mine. There are unexpected bends in the road ahead that will introduce us to tragedy and triumph, tears and treasures, and love and loss.

Job's classic words recorded in today's scripture verse are hard to beat. Job attributed everything that happened to him to God – "The LORD gave and has taken away." Don't dignify the devil, people, chance or anything else with getting credit for what is happening in your life. Lay it at the feet of God; a good and loving God who has a plan for your life even when you don't understand everything that is going on.

The days ahead in our study of Job are going to be full of trials and tears, but there are also going to be some unexpected bright moments and above all, we know how the book ends!

The same holds true for your life. Don't lose hope, God is still God and He still loves you.

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 34:1**

*"No other reward could possibly equal the joy that comes from knowing almighty God is pleased with you and what you have done with your life."* \_Henry Blackaby

**TUESDAY, April 20, 2010:**

Job 2:5 *"But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"*

I despise being sick. I don't like pain. I don't like having to lay around and not be productive, and I don't like having to press through and be productive through my sickness. I bet you feel the same way.

Job was like us also; nevertheless, he had to deal with sickness. Matter of fact, he was suffering so much that his wife told him to curse God (2:10) and his friends didn't even recognize him (2:12). Now that's sick!

So what do we do when we're sick? We just have to do the best we can (inspiring isn't it!). I wish I could give you more, but sometimes God chooses not to heal us. Sometimes we just have to grab a "potsherd" (medicine, chicken soup, rest) and make the best of it.

Faithfulness means nothing if faith is not required. Perhaps you're living out this devotion today. If so, my heart goes out to you...but be firm, be steady, and be sure that God loves you still.

**SCRIPTURE: Job 2:10**

*"Fixing our minds upon locality, we miss the universe."* \_Warren W. Wiersbe

**WEDNESDAY, April 21, 2010:**

Job 3:11 *"Why did I not die at birth?"*

Have you ever hurt so bad that you despaired of life? Job did; I have, and I bet you probably have also.

I remember a bad sunburn that reacted even worse after I had taken a shower. I was in so much excruciating pain that I could hardly stand it (my heart goes out to burn victims).

I remember going through dark seasons of the soul where I asked God to take me home. Those were tough times that tested the limits of my faith and endurance. But my dear friend, I made it and should I have to face similar times again I believe I will make it then also. Why?

- *Because I have learned that the grave is not the answer, an empty tomb is.*

Jesus has gone through every sickness and sorrow common to man and triumphed. We can lean on Him with all our hearts and He will not let us down...that you can depend on. Maybe you're going through one of those excruciating times of pain and sorrow today...do not despair, Jesus comes in those hours at the whisper of his name. Call on Him and find strength for another day.

**SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 6:17-20**

*"The pain is in the silence."*  
\_Corrie Ten Boon

**THURSDAY, April 22, 2010:**

Job 4:2 *"But who can withhold himself from speaking?"*

Eliphaz was an old friend of Job's. When he heard of Job's calamities, he traveled a long distance to be there for Job and sought to comfort him (2:11).

Eliphaz was doing great at bringing comfort until he opened his mouth. The moment he opened his mouth and started trying to explain why Job was suffering, things went south. Trying to fix someone or explain to them why things are happening the way they are is usually one of the worst things you can do. Pain blinds us and numbs our ability to think and reason.

When you are going through a storm, you don't need a lesson on meteorology. When your "ship" is being battered, you don't need an engineer to explain to you how to build a better ship. What you need is someone to simply be there and love you through the storm.

Dear friend, T-H-I-N-K before you speak!

- T – Is it TRUE
- H – Is it HELPFUL
- I – Is it INSPIRING
- N – Is it NECESSARY
- K – Is it KIND

**SCRIPTURE: Amos 5:13**

*"Evil can be unbearable as well as unspeakable, and the pressure to account for it will always be insatiable. But if ever we do not know, we should not talk. Silence itself is eloquent sympathy."* \_Os Guinness