

FRIDAY, July 2, 2010:

Job 34:10-11 *“Far be it from God to do wickedness, and from the Almighty to commit iniquity. He repays man according to his work, and makes man to find a reward according to his way.”*

At the writing of this devotional I am in Greenville for “Campmeeting week” (see my June 21 Blog @ FMCOG.com). After the evening service we stopped by a Whole Foods grocery store to pick up a few grocery items. This was my first visit to a Whole Foods store and we arrived after closing time and the doors were locked. However, the manager was there and asked us if we were there for only a few items and we said “Yes.” He opened the door with a smile and said “Welcome.” I was shocked. We live in such a rigid world where if closing time is 9:00 p.m. they want you out of there by 8:45 p.m.!

I told Sonja as we were leaving that that event of grace will always be counted toward Whole Food’s credit in my eyes. This act of grace happened only because a store manager found a way to satisfy law and regulation by putting his own job and reputation on the line. He practiced our PEP principles of putting people before principle.

That is what God does. Like today’s Bible verse states, God is an absolutely just and righteous God. He makes no compromises when it comes to his laws and regulations. So how can He let us through His door and allow us access to Him and Heaven? In other words, how can God make an exception for you and me?

The word is Calvary. It was there that God, through Jesus Christ put his life on the line and bore the penalty for our sins. He made an exception for us / and may we forever put that to God’s credit by living a life of devotion to Him.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:24

SATURDAY, July 3, 2010:

Job 32:8 *“But there is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding.”*

Job 34:1-4 *“Elihu further answered and said...let us know among ourselves what is good.”*

Well, we’re at the end of the week and I’ve almost run out of space! But I’d like to leave one thought with you today. If you were to read Job 32-33 again, and then Job 34; you will find an entirely different “tone”.

Simply put, in Job 32 Elihu is depending upon the wisdom of God to give instruction to Job; in Job 34 he is using man’s reasoning. The difference in “tone” is that in chapters 32-33 the tone, while straight-shooting, is merciful, hopeful and full of grace. While in chapter 34 the tone is harsh, accusatory and demeaning.

The point is this, when we have the heart of God our words heal and give hope; when we are operating in our wisdom our words destroy. You have a choice, please dear one, speak “God ordained words of blessing and hope.”

SCRIPTURE: Prov. 15:4

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Pastor Kemp’s Weekly Devotional

For the week of June 27, 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 this week:

MONDAY: _____

TUESDAY: _____

WEDNESDAY: _____

THURSDAY: _____

FRIDAY: _____

SATURDAY: _____



MONDAY, June 28, 2010:

Job 33:12-13 *“For God is greater than man. Why do you contend with Him? For He does not give an accounting of any of His words?”*

Recently an aged mother of one of the men in our church had a stroke. Suddenly a woman that had been used to taking care of herself was bed-ridden and reduced to being dependent upon others for the basic needs of life. She had devotedly served God for many, many years and so the son was shocked when he heard his mother speaking of being angry with God. His question to me was, “What to do?”

It is easy for someone like me that is not going through the trauma of a stroke to give advice, but this is a question that deserves an answer, for I have discovered that there are many people who have hard questions for God, but feel guilty for asking.

My answer for you, if you have hard questions (and feelings) for God, is twofold. The first I will deal with today and the second I will deal with tomorrow.

First, it is OK for a child of the Heavenly Father to get angry with Him. After all, what child has not been angry with their parents? God understands this; we do not have to walk on pins and needles around Him. The difference between a good relationship and a bad relationship is not that a good relationship never has conflict, but it is that those in a good relationship fight fairly. They do not allow disagreements and misunderstandings to become caustic and poisonous.

So today, if you are dealing with disappointment and hurt toward life and God, admit it. Talk to Him about it; to do so is the first step in finding peace and resolution.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 5:7

TUESDAY, June 29, 2010:

Job 33:12-13 *“For God is greater than man. Why do you contend with Him? For He does not give an accounting of any of His words?”*

Yesterday we discussed how it is OK to be angry with God, to question Him and wonder what in the world He is up to. That is a normal part of any relationship.

However, if we are going to find peace, there must come a time that we surrender; that we simply say, “God, I realize that you are God and I am not.”

I somehow sense that I’m writing to someone today that has struggled with this issue for a long time. Maybe as a child you suffered betrayal and you’ve wondered all these years how God could have allowed it to happen.

Maybe you’re dealing with disappointment with God in what appears to be Him letting you down when you were trusting so much.

My dear one, I probably don’t have the answer for you...but this I know, God is not into “part-time love.” He loves you and cares for you eternally. Ultimately there comes a time when you have to take a chance and throw in your lot with God completely, allowing Him to set the course for your life; and when you do – through the good and the bad – you can be assured that He is committed to you having the very best.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:23

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WEDNESDAY, June 30, 2010:

Job 33:29-30 *“Behold, God works **all these things**, twice, in fact, three times with a man to bring back his soul from the Pit, that he may be enlightened with the light of life.”*

What is your “all these things” today? We all have them. They are those things that just do not seem resolvable; they are those things that will just not go away.

I have often heard that trying to pass kidney stones is the equivalent of giving birth. Yet the difference between passing kidney stones and giving birth is that the pain of birth is soon forgotten, replaced with joy.

Dear friend, in God’s economy, there are no “kidney stones.” If you will turn your “all these things” over to Him, no matter how many times it is required, God will make good out of it.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 7:37a

THURSDAY, July 1, 2010:

Job 34:9 *“It profits a man nothing that he should delight in God.”*

Lucy and the Peanuts gang played on a summer baseball team in Charles Schulz’s comic strip. At the end of the season, Lucy reviewed her diary and noted that they had played twelve (12) games where they almost scored a run. They played nine first innings when the other team almost did not score 30 runs. Lucy almost caught three fly balls in left field. She almost threw the ball to the right base. Lucy concluded that her team led the league in “almosts.”

In our Bible verse today Elihu commits an “almost” - he almost tells the truth. He is quoting Job but he makes a bad, bad error, he does not quote him exactly right. While in the throes of pain and woe, Job made some strong statements about God, but he never – not once – said that *“It profits a man nothing that he should delight in God.”*

It is so easy in the heat of a conversation to misrepresent the truth. We don’t mean to, but it is so easy. In this case, Elihu was giving the victory to Satan, for the underlying issue behind the book of Job was that Satan believed that a man would reject God if the price got too high.

The same is true today, anytime we play fast and easy with the truth, the Devil wins.

Remember, before you say it, send it or believe it, ask yourself, “Is this really true?” and ask yourself, “Do I want my name attached to it?”

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:25