

**FRIDAY, May 14, 2010:**

Job 17:2 "Are not mockers with me? And does not my eye dwell on their provocation?"

It would be so nice when going through difficult times to be able to shut our eyes and it go away; but alas, that is not the case.

Job came to understand that not only must one be careful at whom they allow to speak into their lives; they must be careful at what they allow their eyes to feed on.

In Job's day, he couldn't look at pictures of his deceased children and at least find some comfort in remembering better days. Job did not have the luxury of putting in a DVD of an inspiring service and being comforted. Job did not have the Bible to turn to.

Today, dear one, you may feel that you are trapped / snared in a situation that stares you in the face everyday. But you do have a recourse; there are other things that you can look at. Feed your soul on things that are good. Turn your eyes and your heart toward God, his word, and even his good creation (just as I was tying this the sun rose into sight \ beautiful!)

I remember as a boy hearing the old saints in the church say, "I'm looking toward the eastern skies." What they were saying is that they were looking for Jesus to return.

That's what you've got to do. Sometimes trouble stares us in the face / no doubt about it...but we've got to look above our troubles and look for better days ahead. They really are there / you've got to believe that.

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 24:27**

**SATURDAY, May 15, 2010:**

Job 18:21 "Surely such are the dwellings of the wicked, and this is the place of him who does not know God."

One day Jesus made a statement that stunned the disciples. He said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:25).

The disciples were blown away, they could hardly believe it. Why? For the same reason that Bildad couldn't believe it and for the same reason that you and I struggle with it. We want to believe that the way the universe is supposed to work is that prosperity, health and smooth sailing are a sign of God's favor and that poverty, sickness and sorrow are a sign of His disfavor.

In our minds we know otherwise, but as soon as trouble comes our way we instinctively look to Heaven and ask God, "Why!?"

But my dear friend, the reality is that sometimes the best, the most dedicated and godly people in the world, like Job, have unexplained tragedy and sorrow. I don't understand it and I certainly don't want it! But when it comes we MUST NOT add to the burden of the suffering by making a declaration of God's judgment over them or ourselves.

Limited space as gotten me! But please think about this.

**SCRIPTURE: John 16:33**



**Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional**

*For the week of May 9, 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, May 10, 2010:**

Job 13:15 *"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him."*

For the last three years or so, I have been meeting with a small group of men for a Bible study on Tuesday morning. The original group that started meeting called themselves the "C.I.A." (Christians in action). They invited me and I've been going ever since. One of the early members of that group was Larry Jackson.

Over the years, we journeyed with him in his battle with ALS (Lou Garet's disease). In the last few months, he has not been physically able to attend. So we've started once a month meeting for lunch instead of breakfast. This allows Larry to attend.

A few days ago, we had one of those lunches and Larry gave a powerful, faith-building and inspiring devotional. I was talking with my wife about it later and told her, "Larry is doing nothing that no other person could do, if they would choose to take the pain, problems and chaos of their lives and use it to proclaim God's love and choose to serve others through their ordeal.

Like Job in his hour of crisis, Larry and determined to say, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." That is the stuff of heroism, not hitting the winning run or being promoted to the top floor or winning a beauty contest or being number one. All of those things fad and pass away; but a determination to trust God in every situation instead of whining and complaining and wallowing in self-pity is the kind of example that inspires and leads and makes a huge difference.

Thank God that every generation has a brave man like Job who dares to trust. Our generation has a Larry Jackson, and for that, I'm so very thankful.

I love you Larry and thank you for your courage. You're a hero to all of us.

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 34:8**

**TUESDAY, May 11, 2010:**

Job 14:14 "If a man dies, shall he live again?"

My car is outdated. Cars today have an input jack that allows you to play your iPod through your stereo system. My car doesn't allow for that. But some ingenious inventor has come up with a way to solve that problem. I can actually hook a small FM transmitter to my iPod and then play it directly through my radio. There's one problem however, most of the time I have to deal with static.

The other day I found myself getting frustrated because of the static; then it occurred to me that there was a time in my life that static on the radio was expected. I remember when we didn't have the high quality technology that we have today nor was the number of stations available / static was just a part of life. But now I'm spoiled! I want perfect all the time, but the truth is life is not perfect. "Static" (problems / difficulties) are a part of life.

One of the secrets of managing around static is to do like Job – stay focused on the main message. Job reminded himself that worst-case, he would live again. The static of life can drown out the hope that is there if we're not careful. Ignore it!

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 93:4**

**WEDNESDAY, May 12, 2010:**

Job 15:2 *"Should a wise man answer with empty knowledge, and fill himself with the east wind?"*

A few days ago, I was at our "Tabernacle" (Bet you didn't know the Church of God had a Tabernacle \ we stole it from Moses! Just kidding☺)

No seriously, our "Tabernacle" is located on our campground where our denominational headquarters are. Actually, we have two "Tabernacles" because we have two campgrounds / it's complicated / just trust me on this.

Anyway, I was at our Mauldin Tabernacle to give an address to our some ministerial interns. While I was waiting, I walked through the long lobby. Due to some refurbishing being done, the carpet had been taken up. There was nothing but the cement slab that serves as the foundation.

As I was walking along, I was whistling a little tune. I noticed how much clearer and louder the sound was with the carpet taken up. I thought about that when reading this verse. Eliphaz (one of Job's "comforters") was commenting on whether or not we should listen to someone who is suffering. His answer was, "No!" But actually, the answer is "Yes!"

The temptation is to listen to "successful" people. We want to hear people that make us forget our problems. But the true character of a person is revealed when the carpet is striped away. The sound is so much clearer then. The advice that will really help, most often comes from someone that's been through a lot of suffering and tough times. If they still have their faith and they're still sweet in the soul – listen! They've got answers that will work.

**SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 17:3-4**

**THURSDAY, May 13, 2010:**

Job 16:19 *"Surely even now my witness is in heaven, and my evidence is on high."*

The life of Job is a reminder that sometimes, no matter how hard you try, people are going to misunderstand you and misrepresent you.

Unfortunately, in the courts of human opinion we are most often guilty until proven innocent.

But does it really matter what people think? It hurts but in the long run, it doesn't matter. For the real reality is that the truth about you is known in Heaven. God knows what you have done or haven't done and more importantly, God knows that you have called on the name of Jesus and all is forgiven.

So hold your head up, weather the storm of public opinion / it will pass but God's opinion will stand and really, that is all that matters.

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 94:21-22**