

FRIDAY, May 21, 2010:

Job 19:26 "...this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God."

I want to remind you that the book of Job is the oldest book in the Bible. This means that Job did not have the Bible in his day to bring him comfort and guidance. Abraham or his sons were not around to tell Job about God. He was operating on the information that Noah and his sons had brought with them through the flood.

Even though Job had it bad, Noah had seen the very worst calamity that has happened even to this day – the Flood. Yet, with all the suffering, fear, danger and chaos that Noah went through, the legacy that he left behind was a message of hope based on the reality and faithfulness of God.

Little did he know that though he never wrote a book in the Bible, the very first one would not have been possible if he had not brought his faith with him through the Flood.

Remember, your faith will shout the loudest when you are going through your "flood" seasons. Everyone expects you to be a happy Christian when life is good, but what will speak louder than blessing and prosperity will be a rock solid faith that keeps hope alive even in the worst of times. And that message will be the one that will keep hope alive for the "Jobs" that will follow after you.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 10:17

SATURDAY, May 22, 2010:

Job 20:4-5 "Do you not know this of old, since man was placed on earth, that the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment?"

One of Job's "comforters" (Zophar) pipes up in chapter 20. If you read it, you will discover that what he has to say is correct. You will be comfortable with his theology. However, there are two things wrong with the chapter that will also be a temptation for you and me.

The first is motive. The theology of chapter 20 is excellent, the motive stinks! Zophar is not interested in helping Job, he wants to bludgeon him with the truth. He has judged Job and found him guilty—and that's that—so, like many people today, he uses his theology to "straighten" someone out. But as someone has said, "You can be right, but wrong at the top of your voice."

I am afraid that the reason so many people are turned off to the good news of Jesus Christ is that our motives for sharing that good news are wrong. Which leads me to the second problem with chapter 20 – Zophar does not offer job any hope. We can all agree that it is not wise to be wicked and a hypocrite. But what is a person to do if they are? That is our ultimate job – give them hope; and you know that the ultimate hope is Jesus Christ. Introduce them to Jesus – both through your words and life.

The fact that bad people are doomed is not the issue, the hope that it doesn't have to end that way – that's the issue.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 10:14-15



Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional

For the week of May 16, 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 17, 2010:

Job 19:18 *“Even young children despise me; I arise, and they speak against me.”*

Remember the “Multiplying Effect”

When Job’s friends publicly accused and humiliated Job, it gave everyone else permission to do the same (even the children).

I think we sometimes forget the affect of our actions and deeds. We humans are bad about “piling on—multiplying sorrows.”

I have witnessed it many times. For example, someone begins to applaud and soon everyone breaks out into applause.

The mood of an entire family, nation, and even the world can be altered when a few people begin “setting the tone” by their words. Bottom line, it is not just enough to “add value”. We must remember that we multiply joy or sorrow based upon our words and deeds.

Let us make sure that our “multiplying effect” makes life better for people—not worse.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:18

“Work was never intended to simply be a distraction on the way to the weekend!”
_H. Dale Burke, *Less is More Leadership*, p. 17

TUESDAY, May 18, 2010:

Job 19:25 *“I know...”*

Job 19:25-27 is one of the classic passages in the Bible. I would like to slow our pace a little here and drill down a bit on this passage.

First, just the expression “I know” means a lot, especially when you are going through a really tough and agonizing time.

How do you get to where you “know” something? The answer is that you experience it. Book knowledge is good, other people’s instructions and advice can help, but nothing beats personal experience.

Here is the heart of today’s devotional: *It is usually at the lowest points in life that you experience the greatest truths.*

I wish it was not that way, but the truth of the matter is that most often we learn things best when we learn them the “the hard way.”

One of the great ironies of our church is its location. A visual that God has given me to help us understand our mission is that we are a “City on a Hill.” Yet we are located at the lowest point in Fort Mill!☺ However, week after week people drive to that lowest point and experience the great redeeming hope of the Gospel. Many of you reading this devotional today can vouch for that. You have stumbled into our church at some of the lowest points of your life. But there you met Jesus (and his loving people), and life turned around for you.

I know it may not be easy right now in your life, but like Job, you too can learn some things in your low places that will forever give you hope and courage to face another day. And like Job—and so many more of us—you will be able to say (even when life is hard and you’ve been thrown a huge curve), “Things may be tough right now, but I know...”

SCRIPTURE: Job 19:25-27

WEDNESDAY, May 19, 2010:

Job 19:25 *“I know my Redeemer lives...”*

Job’s use of the word “redeemer” is very interesting. The Hebrew word is “gâ’al”, which generally means “vindicator,” but always in the specific context of a “kinsman” – someone who is in close blood relationship (who stands in defense of a brother).

The book of Ruth tells the story of a “Kinsman Redeemer.” This ideal runs throughout the Bible and ultimately points to our “blood brother”, Jesus Christ.

Today, I know that there exist many troubles, trials, and tribulations in this world. Like me, I bet you could put some specific names to the three categories that I have just listed. But, I also KNOW that my Kinsman Redeemer, Jesus Christ will vindicate you and me! He is on our side and there is no problem that is bigger than the Power that defends us!

The only issue that I will remind you of is this – Jesus becomes your “Kinsman Redeemer” through an intentional act on your part. That intentional act is when you realize that you are lost and undefended without Him—no matter how sincere, good, and well meaning you are.

As a result of this realization, you confess your sins, surrender to His management of your life, and accept His work at Calvary.

When you do this, God accepts you as his child, and Jesus—your Kinsman Redeemer—forever stands for your defense!

Today, If you are not certain if Jesus is your Kinsman, invite Him to be so. Confess your sins, surrender to His management and receive His love, mercy and forgiveness. Discover the joy and hope of **knowing** that your Redeemer lives!

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 50:34

THURSDAY, May 20, 2010:

Job 19:26 *“After my skin is destroyed, this I know...”*

Sam Knight, my father-in-law, was not a man of many words. But when he spoke it was usually worth listening too.

One of the legacies he passed on to my family goes back to Sonja’s childhood.

She recounts that one day, when she was about eight years old, she became worried with the issue of where God came from. When she asked her father about it he replied, “Sonja, the insane asylums are full of people worrying about things like that.”

That statement has become a part of our family. It is our way of reminding ourselves that there are just some things that we will not be able to figure out until the next life.

Why drive yourself crazy worrying about things that you cannot do anything about? Leave it with God. He knows what to do about it.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 10:28-31