

FRIDAY, May 7, 2010:

Job 11:3-4 *“Should your empty talk make men hold their peace? And when you mock, should no one rebuke you? For you have said, ‘My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in your eyes.’”*

Chapter 11 of the book of Job introduces a new “friend” of Job’s, his name is Zophar. Zophar is the type of friend that feels like they have to correct people.

But here is the irony; Job’s words were correct. He continued to protest that whatever the reason for his suffering, it was not due to sin in his life / and he was right!

Now here is the point I’d like for us to consider today:

- Give people the benefit of doubt

Giving someone the benefit of doubt means that you suspend making a judgment until more is known. It means that you make a choice to assume the best in people. What a better way to be a friend than trying to be a “correcting” friend.

Think of how much that attitude would improve the environment in our homes, schools and work stations. Think how that philosophy would make things run smoother as we go through life.

There will be times that correction is required, but when I’m trying to decide whether or not to say something I refer myself to my “T-H-I-N-K” affirmations; especially the last two:

- N – Is it absolutely necessary that I speak?
- K – If it is, can I say it kindly?

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 2:24-26

SATURDAY, May 8, 2010:

Job 12:1-3 *“Then Job answered and said: ‘No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you! But I have understanding as well as you; I am not inferior to you.’”*

I remember one day talking with Larry Nivens about how he used to motivate his son, Mark, back in Mark’s high school basketball days. Mark would get caught up in the flow of the game and just go through the motions. But Larry recalled a time that Mark was knocked down by a charge (a foul). That charge got Mark’s attention and got his heart into the game and he played 100% better.

From that day forward when Larry noticed his son drifting he would shout from the stands, “Mark! Take a charge!” That was his way of saying, “It’s time to get in the game.” That is what happens to Job beginning in chapter 12. Up till now he had allowed his pain and suffering to defeat him. But with Zophar’s attacks on his character he got riled up. He had taken a charge and it got him back in the game.

Somehow I feel that I’m writing this for someone in particular today. You’ve allowed the problems and pain of your life to beat you down / don’t do it! Take a charge, get back in the game of life / believe in yourself / you can make it – you’re inferior to no one... and you are a winner!

SCRIPTURE: I Timothy 6:12



Pastor Kemp’s Weekly Devotional

For the week of May 2, 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 3, 2010:

Job 8:11-13 *"Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh? Can the reeds flourish without water?"* ¹² *While it is yet green and not cut down, it withers before any other plant.* ¹³ *So are the paths of all who forget God; and the hope of the hypocrite shall perish."*

The Parable of the Papyrus...

How do you account for the fact that good people suffer? Good ole Bildad, one of Job's "friends" came up with a solution. He uses an ancient parable to illustrate. He told Job he appeared to be the "real deal", but really he was like a papyrus plant that grew up without any roots. It sprang up but when the pressure came it withered.

That is how Bildad explained Job's suffering. Basically, Bildad told Job that if he had really been right with God his calamity and suffering would not have happened.

However, Bildad could not have been more **wrong!** The truth of the matter is that many of God's choice servants have gone through extremely tough times. People wrote them off and, though they may have not called it that \ they used the parable of the papyrus to explain their tough times.

People may be saying that about you. They may be thinking that if you really were a Christian then you would not be going through the things you're going through.

Well listen carefully...**PROVE THEM WRONG!** Hang in there. Persevere! Don't give up! Better days are ahead. God may lead you through troubled times but you will come out on the other side victorious.

You've got what it takes \ prove the naysayers wrong \ your victory will be just that much sweeter!

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 3:9-11

TUESDAY, May 4, 2010:

Job 9:2 *"How can a man be righteous before God?"*

I know it is bad grammar, but the expression, "I is what I is" leads us to the answer of today's question. You "is" not righteous before God. You may be a good person, a moral person and even an above average good and moral person, but as far as being good and moral enough to meet God's standards – "Forget about it!" (You have to say that Italian style!)

The goal for you and me is not to be righteous before God; the goal is to lean hard on the righteousness of Jesus Christ. He is our righteousness.

Bottom line, the focus is not: "I am righteous?", but rather, "I am Jesus'?"

You may be one of those people who are all about the rules; today I want to remind you that your only hope is a relationship \ a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Believe me, a healthy relationship with Jesus Christ will cause you to live better, but that is only a result of your relationship with Jesus.

For example, when I fell in love with Sonja, my behavior changed (big time!); but it was not because she gave me a bunch of rules to keep. I changed because love changed me. The same will be true as your love for Jesus grows.

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 23:6

WEDNESDAY, May 5, 2010:

Job 9:4 *"God is wise in heart and might in strength..."*

Have you ever thought how your life would be without the Bible or having any knowledge whatsoever of Jesus Christ?

If you'd like to know how that would be then read the book of Job. Job had no Scripture and Job knew nothing of God's plan through Jesus Christ.

All Job had was his conscience and nature (God's creation).

If you have the time, read chapter 9 in light of the fact that Job did not have the Bible or any revelation of Jesus.

How blessed and privileged we are. I'm ashamed of those times that I doubt, when I have so much! (Father, forgive me!)

Dear friend, let's not take for granted the precious Bible that we have and the unbelievable good news that God has revealed himself in human form via Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURE:

Colossians 1:24-27

THURSDAY, May 6, 2010:

Job 10:20-21 *"Cease! Leave me alone, that I may take a little comfort, before I go to the place from which I shall not return..."*

If you are my age or older I bet you remember the 1980 Olympics where the U.S.A. hockey team beat the U.S.S.R. and went on to win the gold medal. It was something that my generation will never forget.

Herb Brooks was the coach who coached the motley crew who were major underdogs. Coach Brooks records that he knew he had a problem when he asked the players who they played for and each of them stated the college that he was from, not the Olympic team.

After a halfhearted performance in an exhibition game, Coach Brooks decided it was time to do something about the lack of unity. After the guys had played an entire game, he had them "skate". This is the hockey equivalent of a football team running laps or a basketball team doing suicide runs. It was a defining moment for the team. During the brutal workout, one of the players yelled out, "I play for the United States of America." With that statement Brooks dismissed the players. It was the turning point. The group of individuals became one. They no longer saw themselves as playing for different schools but as playing for the USA \ they became a team.

Today's verse is a reminder that life can sometimes get so hard that we think that even God is against us. Like Job, we can find ourselves crying for God to leave us alone! In those moments, never forget you are still on the team. The "workout" may be hard, but God is not against you, He's just preparing you to win the gold!

SCRIPTURE: I Corinthians 9:24