

In The Day of Adversity Consider

Introduction:

- A. Adversity comes to different people in different ways.
- B. Some of our solutions are not Biblically-based.
 - 1. Must not seek to out-bully the bully who troubles us – cf.Rom.12:17-19.
 - 2. Must not give selves totally to economic pursuits when in financial trouble – cf.Matt.6:25-34.
- C. All adversity can be dealt with in the same way.
 - 1. No matter what the problems are, the comfort to cope with it and the solution to solve it always follow the same pattern.
- D. We need that comfort in times of adversity.
 - 1. Job's friends, though they failed, came to comfort Job – Job 2:11.
 - 2. We need comforting words when facing hurdles of adversity to our faith – words that build faith, not give reasons to give up and quit.
 - 3. Eccl.7:14– *“14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, and **in the day of adversity consider**; yea, God hath made the one side by side with the other, to the end that man should not find out anything [that shall be] after him.”*
- E. In this lesson we want to consider briefly three lessons from Exodus 3-5 that should prove comforting to us in times of adversity.
- F. When facing adversity, we must remember ...

I. God Is Aware of It. (Ex.3:7,8)

- A. Idols that men worship are “dumb.”
 - 1. 1 Cor.12:2; Hab.2:18,19– They were unable to speak – unable to express any emotion.
 - 2. They were not aware of anything – cf.Psa.115:4-8; Isa.44:15-19.
 - 3. So when pagans were suffering and cried to their gods, they were crying to non-existent things that were totally unaware of their plight.
- B. By contrast consider the God of Heaven:
 - 1. Hab.2:20– *“20 But **Jehovah is in his holy temple**: let all the earth keep silence before him.”*
- C. Notice four indications of Divine awareness.
 - 1. Ex.3:7,8– *“7 And Jehovah said, **I have surely seen the affliction** of my people that are in Egypt, and **have heard their cry** by reason of their taskmasters; for **I know their sorrows**; 8 and **I am come down to deliver them** out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite.”*
- D. Think of the Hebrews who were born, lived, and died in bondage.
 - 1. They must have thought God was unaware of them and forgot all about them.
 - 2. They had been enslaved and afflicted 400 years – Gen.15:13.
 - 3. No doubt they asked the age-old Bible question that has plagued God's children – “How long?”
 - a. Psa.13:1; 35:17; 74:10; Rev.6:10.
- E. Yet, God is aware when His children face great adversity.
 - 1. We must never forget this – Heb.13:5.
 - 2. Never allow yourself to think God has forsaken you and not taken notice of your affliction.

II. We Must Help to Overcome It. (Ex.3:10–4:17)

- A. The temptation is great to think God will do it all to deliver us from adversity.
 - 1. After all, God is omnipotent – all-powerful.
- B. The truth of the matter is that He will use us in our own deliverance.
 - 1. The fact He tells us to serve means He considers us capable of doing our part.

2. He isn't impressed with excuses to the contrary.
 - a. Shouldn't ask, "Why Me?" – Ex.3:11.
 - b. Shouldn't play the "What if this happens?" game – Ex.3:13; 4:1.
 - c. Shouldn't argue, "I'm not able to..." – Ex.4:10.
 - d. Shouldn't ask, "Why doesn't someone else do it?" – Ex.4:13.
3. Continued excuse-making and reluctance to serve will only anger Him – Ex.4:14.
 - a. Do we want to be in such a position? – Heb.10:31.
- C. As a practical matter, consider the two alternatives.
 1. God always coming to the rescue of His children.
 - a. The idea that no matter what adversities come our way, God will always "bail us out."
 - b. Everyone knows all this does is make spoiled brats out of children.
 2. God using us to help ourselves out of adversities.
 - a. Builds character and confidence – Ex.10:26.
 - 1) Moses was so lacking in confidence before, but no longer.
 - b. Means of testing faith – Jas.1:2-4; 1 Pet.1:6,7.
 - c. Building of faith to avoid adversity in the future – 2 Thess.1:3-5.
- D. When affliction comes, look for what the Lord wants you to do to overcome the affliction.

III. Victory Over it Has a Price. (Ex.5:15-23)

- A. We might only think of the relief we'll experience when we overcome the adversity.
 1. The temptation is to believe victory is always easy.
- B. The Hebrews were so glad to hear Moses' message initially – Ex.4:29-31.
 1. At long last – God has answered our prayers!
- C. Yet, they had to learn the hard truth that freedom comes at a price.
 1. Deliverance might not work out like we think it will.
 2. Moses had learned this – Acts 7:24,25.
 3. Now the Hebrews must learn it, too.
 4. Things were going to get worse before they would get better – Ex.5:6-9,14.
 5. We must not show contempt for God's solution – Ex.5:20,21.
 6. An example of how this should work out is in Acts 4:23-30.
 - a. Adversity – Jews trying to stop Christianity – Acts 4:17,18,21.
 - b. Never prayed for God to remove the Jews who placed adversity upon the infant church.
 - c. They simply prayed for boldness to keep serving God in their capacity.

Conclusion:

- A. It does us good to review Old Testament examples – Rom.15:4; 1 Cor.10:11.
- B. When overcoming our adversity, we will do well to remember...
 1. God is aware of it.
 2. We must help to overcome it.
 3. Victory over it has a price.
- C. These points will be the same regardless what the specific adversity upon us is.