

WHEN TROUBLES COME

Luke 8:22-25; John 16:33

Introduction: Do you know of anybody who doesn't have troubles of some sort at one time or other? Health problems, work problems, school problems, family problems, spiritual problems, loss of a loved one or a friend, all of us have faced troubles/problems and will do so again, Jesus even warned us that tribulations will happen. (*John 16:33*)

I. HOW DO WE HANDLE TROUBLES WHEN THEY COME?

1. How did the disciples handle the troubles they encountered during a storm while they were in a boat on the sea? (text). Would we have done anything any differently?
2. Do we worry about the situation? Do we get depressed when the situation just won't go away?
3. Do we just give up, quit fighting, quit resisting, quit trying to work things out?
4. Do we complain and fuss about our troubles, problems, situations? Aren't there people with bigger and more serious problems than ours?
5. Do we have a "self-pity" party? Do we act as if we are the only ones who are having a hard time and so we feel sorry for ourselves?
6. Do we turn against everyone and everything in bitterness and just withdraw into our own private little world when troubles come?
7. Who do you know who, when trouble came to them, stood up, faced their trouble directly, never complained, never backed down, never quit but stayed with it and worked through the situation?

II. HOW SHOULD WE HANDLE TROUBLES WHEN THEY COME?

1. Remember the little old lady who worried her doctor to death about this and that until he told her that she was just going to have to stop worrying and put her faith in the Lord and she cried out, "Oh my, has it come to that?" Well aren't we all like her at one time or other?
2. Isn't it strange that we trust God to save us and when we die we will have a home in heaven, but for some reason we don't seem to be able to trust God to get us through our troubles here on earth.
3. If we say that we have given the Lord Jesus "everything" (All to Jesus I surrender) then why do we act as we do when troubles come our way?
4. What God has done for us spiritually, He wants to do for us physically and that is to take care of us. (Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there...). God is well able to get us through any and all difficulties that we face during our life here on this earth. Let us turn our troubles over to Him.

III. COULDN'T GOD PREVENT OUR TROUBLES FROM EVER HAPPENING?

1. God could prevent troubles from ever happening to us, but God sees our lives differently than we do. God knows that we can really stand up to troubles better than we think we can and after the troubles have passed, we are stronger and wiser and our faith in God is greater.
2. We need to look at troubles as God's way of making us grow in faith, trust, reliance, dependence and self-confidence, thus becoming more of the person God knows we can be.

IV. WHERE IS GOD DURING ALL OUR TROUBLES?

1. God is not somewhere far away although it may seem like it at times. We have been told "*...for I will be with thee and I will never forsake thee...*" Know it or not, God is right with us, just as Jesus was in the boat with the disciples during the terrible storm they were in.
2. Where was God when Adam and Eve sinned? Where was God when Israel went into captivity? God was watching Adam and Eve sin. God was getting Moses ready to lead Israel out of their captivity. God was preparing His Son, Jesus, to come into the world to rescue sinful man from the depths of Hell. God is always HERE.
3. Are you going through a "storm" right now? Are you having troubles? Well, remember that Jesus had storms, troubles, situations and problems too. Who did He turn to? Wasn't it God, the Father?
4. Think about when your children were babies. Who taught them to walk? Who taught them to talk? Who was there for them when they hurt themselves? Who caught them when they almost fell? It's the same with God and us. God will never leave us and is constantly watching over us and is there for us every moment of our lives.

CONCLUSION:

1. Remember Job? What did he do to deserve all the troubles that came to him? Where did he get the strength to get through all that he went through? Didn't he turn to God?
2. Remember the three thrown into the fire furnace? Didn't God join them and get them through the trouble they were in?
3. Again, remember the disciples in the boat in the storm, who stilled the storm and got them to shore safely? Wasn't it the Lord?
4. God is always with us and will never leave us and will get us through anything that comes our way BUT we need to turn to Him and turn everything over to Him and do what He says and we will get through whatever troubles that happen.
5. It's not automatic, turning things over to God, our human nature wants to run things, so we have to WANT God's help and as the disciples did, FINALLY, they went to the Lord for help, so must we.