

Good News

From Getwell

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SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.

Worship.....10:20 a.m.

Worship.....5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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ON THE HOME FRONT

It was a great day this past Lord's day. It was so good to have Miss Susie back with us, as she continues to recuperate from her knee surgery and endure Michael's cooking.

Gwyn Watkins came forward to ask for the prayers of the church. Gwyn is an outstanding Christian lady. She is the widow of brother John who was a deacon here for a number of years. They had five children who I know them all. They refer to me as their white brother. Let us all encourage Gwyn as she strives, like we all do, to walk in the light.

Brother Wyatt presented three outstanding lessons Sunday. In Bible class we studied the book of Hosea, a book that is often overlooked by many in our brotherhood. Two memorable passages from the book stood out to me. One was Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..." The other passage I found rather humorous is Hosea 4:16 "For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer..." It makes me wonder if Hosea had a farming background and seen a heifer sliding backwards. I wonder how many preachers down through the years have preached to their congregation, "Are you a backsliding cow?"

The Sunday morning sermon was titled "That We May Know" taken from I John 5:13-21. Brother Wyatt pointed out that the word 'know' appears multiple times in this epistle. It was pointed out in his lesson five points we may know:

- 1) We know we have eternal life if we walk in the light.
- 2) We know God hears and answers our prayers.
- 3) We know we can have victory over sin.
- 4) We know we belong to God.
- 5) We know Christ is the true God.

I John 5:20

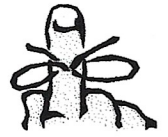
We know we are in Him!

Sunday evening we heard a lesson from Psalm 95. It was basically on worship. The lesson was entitled "Why We Worship and Why We Live". We live to glorify our God. It was a great day Sunday at Getwell.

Until next week.

Ron Wallace

RON'S REMINDERS



WHERE to turn when there is NOWHERE to turn

Abe Lincoln said, "I have often been driven to my knees by the sincere conviction that there was nowhere else to go."

The nobleman from Capernaum whose son was about to die had just about given up hope (John 4:46-54). The baby he had first held shortly after birth, the boy he had wrestled with on the floor of his living room, the son he hoped would care for him in his old age, was about to precede him through death's door.

Perhaps friends came by and told him about a miracle they had seen at a relative's wedding at Cana some weeks before. News about Jesus often spread fast to those who had needs (Mark 2:1-3; 6:54-56; 10:47). This Man Jesus could do some amazing things. Maybe He could help the boy.

At first, the father likely dismissed it as wishful thinking, but then he came to see it as his last ray of hope. What could it hurt anyway? He could ask. All Jesus could do was say, "No," or try and fail. Either way, it could not hurt. The boy was dying anyway. Besides, just maybe . . . so "when he heard that Jesus had come . . . into Galilee, he went to Him" (John 4:47).

YOU WILL GET THERE . . .

If you have not yet been to the place where you did not know where to turn, you will get there. You will be in a hospital waiting room or a funeral home or a police station or at the scene of an accident or a doctor's office or a bank or a courtroom—and you will know (perhaps for the first time) that you do not have all the answers.

"Man is born to trouble" (Job 5:7; cf. Genesis 3:17-19; Ecclesiastes 2:17; John 14:1-2; 1 Corinthians 10:13). "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble" (Job 14:1). Like this nobleman, it may involve your son or daughter. While Jesus was on earth, He was often approached by parents who were desperate for help with their children (Matthew 9:18; 15:22; 17:14-15). Some of the most heart-gripping requests in Scripture come from parents who had sick children (Luke 8:41-42; Mark 5:23, 35-36).

The natural question at such a time is, "Why?" The word why is found 401 (NKJ) times in the Bible. Job asked, "Why did I not die at birth?" (Job 3:11-12; cf. 3:16, 20, 23). Gideon asked it (Judges 6:13). The psalmist asked it (Psalm 42:9; cf. 27:9; 71:11). Jeremiah asked, "Why do You forget us forever?" (Lamentations 5:20; cf. 1:12). Jesus asked it: "Why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34). It is still asked by thousands of passionate voices.

- From the sick room: "Why this illness?"
- From the cemetery: "Why this death?"
- From the blood-soaked battlefields: "Why this loss?"
- From the lips of the oppressed: "Why this suffering?"
- From the burdened: "Why this weight?"

"Why?" is an easy question to ask and a hard question to answer. God's people live on promises, not on explanations. Nowhere in his book does Job deny the Lord, curse Him, or question His holiness or His power. In fact, God's justice was Job's real problem: How could such a holy God permit such awful calamity?

Riches, power, influence, station, and education do not exempt us from such trouble (Job 1:3; Deuteronomy 8:5-20; Proverbs 23:5). The father of the sick boy in Capernaum was a nobleman, yet his son still got sick. Think of Abraham, David, and Solomon, who all had both riches and troubles.

AND GOD WILL ALREADY BE THERE . . .

One day you may find yourself in a similar situation, and you will think, "I am in deep trouble. What am I going to do? Who can help me now?" There may be a parent or a friend to call or an elder to counsel you, but sometimes they are just as helpless as we are. Jeremiah said, "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23).

God is everywhere; therefore, He is near everyone (Psalm 139:7-12). But there is a special sense in which God is with His children (1 Peter 3:12; Psalm 23:3-4; Isaiah 43:2, 4). Was God not present in Daniel's den of lions (Daniel 6)? Was God not present in Shadrach, Meshech, and Abed-Nego's fiery furnace (Daniel 3)? Was God not present in Paul's Philippian jail (Acts 16)?

It is at times like these that the Lord invites, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me" (Psalm 50:15; cf. 78:34). God is there for His people in trouble.

The psalmist said, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). God is a helper—a present helper, a helper who can be found, a willing helper, and a helper who is always near. We could not even invent a better helper: He knows everything, has every power, is everywhere, and loves everybody.

Jesus turned to the Father in prayer in life's hard spots. While on the cross, Jesus addressed God three times—His first, fourth, and final statements. His first, middle, and last thoughts were on His Father. It does not surprise us that the first word that Jesus uttered on His cross was a prayer, for prayer had been His habit from youth. We expect to hear Him pray under these frightening circumstances. Even those who refuse to pray when the sea is smooth generally pray when a storm comes.

Jesus is the Physician who never disappoints (Job 13:4; Isaiah 1:5-6; Jeremiah 8:22; Matthew 9:11-12; Luke 8:43-48). "When dismayed or distressed with the fear of wrath, the force of the temptation, or the weight of affliction, we should appeal to the Physician of our souls, who never rejects any, never prescribes amiss, and never leaves any case uncured. To Him we may speak at all times."¹

We should not give up hope, even when life gets dark. If we feel God is not paying attention, we should read the passages that say He remembers us (Genesis 8:1; Psalm 106:4; Luke 23:42). There are times when God seems to hide Himself, but we may rest assured that He is there (Job 23:3; Psalm 10:1; 13:1-3; 89:46; Isaiah 8:17; 45:15; 1 Timothy 6:16).

For Job, God seemed to stand at a distance and frown at him. Job thought he wanted to argue with God, but when he got the chance, he declined (Job 40:1-5; cf. Psalm 43:1). Where can we find God? (Job 23:3; Isaiah 55:6-7; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20; Hebrews 4:16).

"Blessed be God, we may know where to find Him. He is in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself; and upon a mercy-seat, waiting to be gracious."²

BUT BEFORE YOU GO . . .

We need to develop faith in God before tragedy comes. Since trouble can come to any life at any time, now is the time to act. We must prepare for the storm while the weather is calm (Job 3:26; Psalm 143:11; Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5). Sometimes trouble comes when least expected (Job 30:26; 3:25-26; 29:18; Jeremiah 8:15; 14:19; 15:18; Micah 1:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:3).

If we refuse to listen to God's Word in good times, He may refuse to hear us in bad times. One preacher began a popular talk by saying, "This sounds strange, but I do not want to hear God laugh. Why? Because it is always sad when God laughs." The text was:

Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, because you disdained all my counsel, and would have none of my rebuke, I also will laugh at your calamity (Proverbs 1:24-26).

This is not to say that we cannot turn to God when trouble comes. In fact, some Bible characters did turn to God because of trials (1 Kings 21:27-29; Luke 15:13-24) and were accepted. It does mean that if we turn to God only for aid, but without true repentance, we cannot expect God's blessings.

So get to know God now, whether you are standing in the sunshine or the rain. He wants you in His family (Ephesians 2:19), to enjoy His blessings (John 10:10) and live with Him forever (John 14:1-2). You do have somewhere to turn!

Endnotes

¹Henry, Matthew. Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible (Complete). Vol. 1, 1706. Bible Study Tools, www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/. Comments on Job 13.

²Henry, Matthew. Comments on Job 23.