

## **Jesus doesn't remove all problems from our lives; He proves himself to be the Solution. October 10, 2015**

Christian maturity comes to people by testing and being tried in the fire of adversity in life. Job was tested in every area that is possible in life as no other man in human history with the exception of Jesus Christ and he never wavered in his confidence in God. He said "Though God slay me, yet will I trust him; but I will maintain mine own ways before him. He also shall be my salvation; for a hypocrite shall not come before him. Behold now, I have ordered my cause; I know that I shall be justified." See Job 13:15.

In Job 19:21, he asked his friends to have pity on him for the hand of God had touched him with adversity. He desired that his words would be written in a book. He wished that they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever, for he knew that his redeemer lives and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. He understood that his flesh would one day decay and worms would destroy his body, yet he had confidence that one day he would stand before God in a new body. He said, "Whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold, and not another though my reins be consumed within me."

In chapter 42:5, Job said, "I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eyes see you." Satan was given permission to put Job through the fire of adversity to show the power of God to keep his children even in the darkest hours of trials and testing. Job was blessed with double of everything he had lost and God and Satan's true characters were revealed in this book. His desire to have his story written in a book that would last forever had been granted and his story encourages Christians from generation to generation. We too have the hope that regardless of what happens to us in this life, if we are faithful to our Lord and Savior, He will see us through to the end.

Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 28:19 to "go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

He was aware of the suffering of the children of Israel under the cruel pharaoh of Egypt; He heard their cries and saw the hardships of his people and in due time, he delivered them by sending Moses to lead them out. Daniel 3 tells us that God was aware of the plight of the 3 Hebrew children, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, when they were faced with the punishment of being thrown into the fiery furnace because they refused to bow down to the King's golden image. All the people bowed down and worshipped the golden image except for the three Hebrew children.

King Nebuchadnezzar called them to stand before him to give account of their deeds. He asked them if it was true that they had refused to serve his gods and refused to bow as he had commanded before his image. He explained the process again to them that music

would start and they were to bow before his image and if they continued to balk, then they would be thrown into the fiery furnace and who is that God that shall deliver you out of the king's hands? The three men answered the king with these words: "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto you O King, that we will not serve your gods, nor worship the golden image which you have set up."

The king went berserk and ordered the furnace to be heated up seven times hotter than it was originally set. The strongest men in his army were chosen to bind the three men and to cast them into the furnace. The men died from the heat as they threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into the furnace. The king looked out and he was astonished and exclaimed, "Didn't we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" The counselors answered, "That is true, O king." He answered, "Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." The men were brought forth and the only difference in them was that the bonds had disappeared and there was not even a smell of smoke on them.

Daniel was thrown into a den of lions and the king was powerless to change the verdict as much as he desired to. He asked, "Is your God who you worship continually able to deliver you?" Daniel told him that God was able and he trusted in the true God. The king had faith or he wouldn't have gone to the cave's entrance early the next morning. He called out to Daniel and Daniel answered and said, "The Lord sent his angels to shut the lions mouths and they didn't hurt me." We serve the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He hasn't changed and Jesus Christ is with us regardless of the trials and hardships that come our way.

In Mark chapter 6, there are troublesome events that took place during this time. Jesus was rejected by his hometown. They wouldn't believe because they knew him as Mary and Joseph, the carpenter's son. He couldn't do many miracles because of their unbelief.

Jesus sent his disciples out and gave them power to heal the sick, cast out evil spirits and to do miracles. Herod heard of it and wondered if John the Baptist had come back from the dead for he had commanded him to be beheaded at the request of his step daughter because he told him the truth of God's commandments. When the apostles returned, they told Jesus all that had happened to them on their mission. Jesus took them apart in the desert to rest for a while for they hadn't even had time to eat. They departed in a ship privately but the people saw them leave and ran from all around the cities to follow them. Jesus had compassion on the multitude and he began to teach them. At the end of the day, the disciples asked Jesus to send the people away so they could go into the villages to buy food for they had nothing to eat.

Jesus said in verse 37: "You feed them". They answered, "Shall we go and buy 200 pennyworth of bread and give them to eat?" He said "How many loaves have you? Go and see." They said, "Five and two fishes." Jesus commanded them to set people down in

companies of hundreds and fifties. He took the bread and fish and looked up to heaven and blessed it and broke the bread into pieces and gave them to his disciples to set before them. He broke the two fish and divided that among them all. Verse 42 said that they ate and were filled. They took up 12 baskets after feeding 5000 men and straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida while he sent away the people. When he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.

That evening, the ship was in the midst of the sea and he was alone on the land.

Jesus saw them toiling in rowing for the wind was contrary unto them and about the fourth watch of the night, he came to them walking upon the sea and would have passed by them. But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit. They cried out! For they all saw him and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them and said, "Be of good cheer! It is I; be not afraid."

And he went up with them into the ship and the wind ceased and they were amazed in themselves beyond measure and wondered. They had not considered that a miracle had taken place with the loaves and fish for their hearts were hardened.

As soon as they entered into the villages, cities or country people came and laid the sick in the streets and besought him to touch them. People reached out to touch him even if it was but the border of his garment and as many as touched him were made whole.

In the book of James chapter 1, it says "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations knowing this that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering for he that wavereth is like a wave in the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

I think of the hymn "It is Well with my Soul." It was written by Horatio Spafford after suffering some traumatic events in his life. 1871- Great Chicago Fire ruined him financially. He had been a successful lawyer and had invested in property that was ruined by fire. His business interests were adversely affected by economic downturn of 1873. He planned to travel to Europe with his family, but sent them on ahead of him because he was delayed because of zoning ordinances and had to tend to the business. His wife and four children were in a ship that sank and his wife alone was saved. The telegram read "Saved alone." Shortly afterwards he went to his grieving wife and was inspired to write the song that has been possibly the most influential and enduring of the Songs published by Sankey and Bliss of 1876. Hardships continued to follow this family, but after World War I, Spafford helped found a group called the American Colony and supported the communities by running soup kitchens, hospitals, orphanages and other charities.