**J O B**

**A MAN MISUNDERSTOOD**

***Written By: Tommy Romans Nov. 2018***

 In this Newsletter, we are picking up where we left off in last month’s issue. We see this blessed man named Job who is really going through it. He is going through a trial that he doesn’t understand. He is questioning and he is asking the reason why. He used to be healthy, wealthy and prosperous but now his world has turned upside down. Everything that can go wrong has hit this man. He has lost all 10 of his children, all of his livestock and now he is struck with sore boils all over his body. He’s suffering not only physical pain but mental anguish and not only that but it seems that the God he has served is nowhere to be found. And on top of all this, 3 of his friends tell him it’s all his fault because he has sinned and God is punishing him for it. We read in the Bible that it was Satan that smote Job and caused this trial that he is enduring. The Lord testified of Job before the trial ever took place saying that he is an upright man. He tells Satan – “Have you considered my servant Job that there’s none like him in all the earth? He’s a perfect man and he’s righteous! He eschews evil.” God tells the devil – “all that he’s suffering and going through, he is still serving me Satan and holding on to his integrity. You are wanting him to curse me and give up but he still trusts me and is remaining faithful.”

 In the character study of this man, we will see how we view ourselves when we go through our trials and bad things happen. We’ll also learn how we ought to see and treat others when they suffer. I believe the spirit of Compassion is developed in our hard times of suffering. How could you truly have compassion for others unless you have suffered? Compassion means to have a sympathetic consciousness of others’ distress with a desire to minister to them and help alleviate their pain. O God, give us an understanding heart that we can show kindness to those who are hurting.

WALKING IN THE OTHER PERSON’S SHOES

 In this lesson, we are looking deep into this man’s life by putting ourselves in his shoes to feel what he is feeling in his suffering and loss. Look around and you will see that this world is lacking mercy and compassion. You see, it’s easy for us to judge others unless we have been where they are and walked in their shoes. We must learn to never be too quick to criticize or judge a struggling soul that Satan has bound and afflicted because it might be us next who will face a hardship of suffering and trial. The Lord is saying – “will you be my hands

reaching out?” Lord, give us a word of comfort that we may speak it to the souls who are weary.

 In 1895, Mary T. Lathrap wrote a poem that speaks volumes. One little clause in it says - “Pray and don’t find fault with the man that limps or stumbles along the road, unless you’ve worn his shoes or stumbled beneath the same load.”

THE MAN WITH THE DEFORMED FEET

 A story is told about a man who went to a second-hand store to get a pair of shoes. He found a nice shiny pair just his size. He discarded the old worn out ones he had on and put on the nicer shiny pair, paid the clerk and headed Home. The old saying is – you can’t judge a book by its cover, nor in this case, a person wearing the nice looking shoes. The more this man walked in his new shoes, the more they hurt his feet. They hurt him so bad that he began to limp and after a while he had to sit down. It became hard to go on. He didn’t know it, but the man that owned them before had died and his wife donated them to the second-hand store. The man had knotted deformed feet that the shoes had conformed to. The man with the deformed feet could wear them, but this man that now wore them struggled to walk under the same load.

 We are around people every day, we pass by them and they are hurting. We can’t see the pain inside. Not only the poor are hurting, but also the rich and famous. Listen, prosperity, riches and pleasures with its high life will never draw you close to God. But let sorrows come, pain and trial and it will do something in your Heart. It will put something good in you that nothing else can. It’s in these times you really see your need for God! The little Poem says – “I walked a mile with Pleasure and she chattered all the way; but left me none the wiser with the things she had to say: But I walked a mile with Sorrow and never a word said she, But O the things I learned when Sorrow walked with me!”

JOB’S DESCENT

 For two whole chapters, it’s one bad news after the other. Job loses everything he’s worked for. He suffers for 35 verses. The devil wanted him to give up but he said these words: “The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, but blessed be the Name of the Lord!” I’m not giving up and I’m not quitting. The question begs to be answered – “how do you still keep going when you’re down to nothing? It is Faith, a desperate Faith and a Trust in God that will keep you. You believe deep in your heart things will get better – they will work out if you’ll continue to hold on! Reading through this inspired book, we find that Job had his high points when he believed he was going to come out of it and he had his low points when he couldn’t get any lower and he lost all Hope! He couldn’t see his way out, had no answer and he couldn’t see or feel God anywhere around!

 It’s one thing to be going through a trial but quite another when the trial itself becomes a trial! In other words – time is the essence; when time drags on…. and on…. and on in your trial, it strains every fiber of your soul. You search for answers and you don’t have them. You feel for God but you can’t seem to find Him. This one thing Job had to do and he learned to do and that is to Trust in the Lord that he served. I know my God loved me before the trial and I know He still loves me now! My trial has not changed God’s attitude toward me.

Let’s go now with Job and join him in his trial. In chapter 3 he begins a down-hill descent. Deep depression sets in! He asks the question WHY 5 different times. Did you know that you can tell what’s bothering people by listening to what they say and how they talk? They will express their feelings through their speech. But even if they keep everything in, God still knows their heart and what’s troubling them! Job said – I wish I had never been born. I wish I had died from the womb and gave up the ghost from my mother’s belly. Don’t forget, this man’s trial lasted for months and months. Knowing how this story ended, if I could have been there in Job’s day, I would have run to him and said – “Just hold on Job, it’s not the end! You might not understand it now, but you will! You’ll see just how Good and Faithful your God is. Hold on, you’re going to come out Blessed!! The Victory and the biggest Blessing you ever had is on its way!”

JOBS’S THREE COMFORTERS

 If Job’s trial and suffering is not enough, now 3

 men show up to be his comforters, that is – they were supposed to be! Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar hear about his tragedy and loss and they saddle up their beasts and come riding to his house to mourn with him. The Bible said they sat down with him on the ground, wept with him and rent their own mantles, sprinkled dust upon their heads in a show of piety. They did it because they saw him grieve. I don’t know how long these three men stayed, but as time dragged on they began to find fault with him and blame him for his suffering. Eliphaz was the first one to speak up. He thinks he has the answer to Job’s suffering. Paraphrasing, he says to Job – “If I tell you something will you be grieved or get angry? Job, you’ve instructed many, strengthened the weak, your words have upholden them that were falling, but now it’s come upon thee and thou faintest, it toucheth thee and thou art troubled. (In other words, you’ve preached to others Job, now look at you!) Whoever perished being innocent Job? If you were innocent, you wouldn’t be dying! Shall a mortal man be more just than God? Despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty Job! (God is whipping you).

 Each one of these men took their turns jabbing this poor suffering saint with their accusing words. Bildad is the next one to speak up: “If you hadn’t sinned Job, this wouldn’t have happened to you. If you were pure and upright, God would awake for you and make your habitation prosperous. So are the paths of all that forget God. The hypocrites hope shall perish Job. Your light is gone out.” Bildad is inferring that Job is a hypocrite. Your hope is cut off. God won’t cast away a perfect man Job.

 It’s as if poor Job is before a courtroom full of witnesses being examined and judged for the storms of calamity that’s hit. Zophar is the next to judge and give his opinion. “You’re getting less than what you deserve Job. You are reaping the sins of your youth. Repent and God will Bless and restore you. If iniquity be in your hand, put it away, then you can lay down and take your rest and be in safety.”

 Aren’t you glad that you have true friends who take you to heart and pray for you in your time of need? They hear about you going through it and they come with words of comfort and a hand outstretched to help. Thank God for true Brothers and Sisters who love us and care. They don’t find fault and criticize, they don’t push down but are there to encourage and lift us with their words and prayers. Thank God for Charity that reaches to the weak and hurting, reaches out to the soul that is cast down and says – come on, the Lord Loves you, you can make it! I’ll help you bear the load, lean on me!

 Isn’t it amazing how the enemy comes, how he talks to you - pushes you farther down? Do you know why? He wants to take every bit of your faith in God away – fill you with doubt so you’ll give up. Strong doubts will rob you of strength. (Doubt is a spirit). Doubts make you look small, unimportant, not good enough, a failure in your own eyes and it will make you feel unworthy in God’s eyes. Doubt will take the fight out of you – you feel useless and that’s what the devil wants. How many of you reading this have fought these spirits in your times of trial? These are the Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar **spirits**! It’s hard enough to be afflicted and hurt physically but when the mind gets sick and troubled, it’s almost more than you can bear – it can kill you spiritually. It will rob you of life within. Time is dragging on in Job’s life and he’s sinking deeper in depression. He’s not only doubting himself but he’s now doubting God because of these 3 faultfinders. What have I done so bad God?

 As a child of God, it is hard enough to battle my own doubts, but when I have to wrestle with the thoughts of others doubting me, it makes it difficult to go on. Be careful dear reader, don’t let others rob you of faith by their doubts! And be careful how you look at others, what you say and how you feel about them! Just because someone is suffering doesn’t mean they are out of the Will of God and are being punished!

GOD HELP OUR WEAK HUMAN LOGIC

 The reason the Holy Ghost led me to go through the whole book of Job is for us to really see our frail human reasoning. Isn’t it amazing how we view things? We are so easy to analyze every situation and not see the main point. We become blinded by the problem, make our assumptions, give our judgments and totally miss God’s purpose! We miss the truth and don’t learn the lesson God wants us to learn. There is a purpose in the trials God allows. He’s teaching us to Trust Him as He brings us to a Better state and Richer place! Whether we realize it or not, He’s taking us to a higher realm. There are valleys before every mountain top! Though we cannot trace God’s hands in the darkness, yet He is doing a work! We fail to see the full picture. It takes time to paint a Pretty Portrait – it doesn’t happen overnight!

 When Satan gets done attacking and whispering his lies to Job and his 3 supposed to be comforters finish their accusations, this poor soul now thinks that God and the whole world is against him. Through most of the rest of this book we find Job uttering these words: “My calamity is heavier than the sand of the sea. The arrows of the Almighty are within me.” (He thinks that God has caused his suffering).

Read the whole book through carefully and you will find that this dear Patriarch never did curse God with his mouth which was the devil’s intention to get him to do. It was Satan that caused the havoc and the suffering. He was the robber and afflicter – not God! But the voices of his 3 friends are causing him to question and blame God. You might say – but Brother Tommy, I’ve never done that, I’ve never been that low – but you’ve got a whole world full of people who are suffering untold agony and losses and the devil is filling their minds that no-one cares, not even God! He’s a hard God and they blame the Lord for their misfortunes when Satan and sin is doing its ungodly work. Whatever you do Child of God, don’t ever blame the Lord in your Heart for your sufferings.

It will take 42 chapters for Job to realize that it wasn’t God after all causing all the pain and turmoil in his life. It wasn’t the Lord who was against him. It was just a trial and Satan was the tormenter!

 JOB’S COMPLAINTS

 When Satan and his people get done with Job and filling him with doubt, he pours out his heart full of complaints. He blames himself and finds fault with God! Listen to him now: “My food has lost its taste. I can’t eat. Kill me God and get me out of the way. I have no strength left in me. I can’t sleep at nights. When shall I arise and the night be gone? I toss to and fro, my body is a mess. My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust. I’ve sinned and God won’t forgive me. Why don’t you pardon my transgression O God? O thou preserver of men, why hast thou set me as a mark against thee?” On through the chapters, he questions, he complains, he wonders. He doesn’t know where he is spiritually! He’s lost all his spiritual bearings. Read these chapters close. The enemy of his soul used his unspiritual friends to fill him with doubt and cause him to take God wrong – to think bad toward the Lord. Job said – “I can’t reason with God. I have no answer. If I be wicked, why then labor I in vain? After all I’ve done to help others and do good – I guess all my work is in vain! If I wash myself with snow water and make my hands never so clean, yet shalt thou plunge men in the ditch. It doesn’t do me any good to live right and clean. This one thing, therefore I said it – He destroyeth the perfect and the wicked. Let Him take His rod away from me, then would I speak and not fear. My soul is weary of my life. I will say unto God – show me wherefore, why thou contendest with me! God, you despise the work of your hands and you shine upon the wicked. Hast thou eyes of flesh? Thou knowest that I am not wicked. Thine hands have made and fashioned me, yet thou destroyeth me. Let me alone and let me die!”

 You might say – that’s awful that Job said those things! But remember, Job had no Bible to read! We do. He had no prayer book filled with promises to meditate on. He had no Pastor, no spirit filled singers, no worship services where the Holy Ghost was moving and blessing. This man had no Spirit filled Brothers and Sisters in the Lord to pray for him and encourage him. There was no Altar for this man to come to and be anointed and prayed over. He had no Gospel preached to him. He didn’t have the indwelling sweet Holy Ghost comforter in His heart to encourage and lift him up in Spirit – But we do!! He battled Alone! Just hold on Job, the best is yet to come – The Lord isn’t done, you’re going to see the Glory of God! Your trial will turn to Triumph!

GOD IS MAKING SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

 In closing, God is making something beautiful out of your life dear Child. Let Him have His way. He’s making you a Praise in the earth for all to see when He is finished. We live and learn after serving God for a while that He has a Purpose. If we are His children, He doesn’t just turn loose of us and let us go. No, He’s making and molding us. As we yield this clay in His hands, we say – Lord, make something beautiful out of me. Make me a blessing. Don’t ever think that your trials separate you from God – No, that’s when He is nearest to you. He’s making a master piece of Embroidery work out of your life. Embroidery is a large wooden frame with canvass stretched tight in it. Different colored threads are weaved back and forth through the canvass with a needle to form a picture. We are God’s art work. This ought to be our prayer: Lord, help me when I question and don’t understand and when things don’t make sense that you are taking all the threads of my life – the good and pretty, the bad and ugly and you are weaving them all together to form a beautiful art work of tapestry.

A DELICATE WORK

 A woman one time visited her neighbor one cold winter day. She hadn’t been over to see her for several weeks. When she walked in, she looked over on the big table and saw a large wooden frame turned upside down with canvass stretched tight within the frame. She looked down and saw all kinds of different colored threads running in every direction back and forth in the frame. She saw not only the gold, blues, reds, greens and yellows, turquois and aquas but she saw the dirty browns and black threads also that ran through it. She saw where the threads had been cut and tied, it looked awful to her. She thought within herself – what a garbled mess! There is no way anything pretty can come out of that. But, hold on lady, wait till you see the other side of the picture! You’re seeing confusing threads on this side that doesn’t make sense. The woman’s neighbor reached down and with her delicate hands turned the frame over and when she did, it took her breath and she stood in awe. The ugly threads that didn’t make sense had been woven with the bright ones to make a most beautiful picture!

 In the picture was a person walking alone on a dirt road. Behind him was darkness, dark clouds and sky. He had just come through and emerged from a storm that left a trail of debris from the whirling winds. In the picture before the man, the sun was shining bright, its rays spilling down on the road he walked – he was heading into a Golden sunset. In the picture frame on the left of this traveler was a field of green filled with gorgeous flowers of every color that seemed to wave in the gentle breeze. On the right side was the prettiest lake of aqua blue. The water was so tranquil like a giant mirror reflecting the snow-white clouds that looked like they were painted in the blue sky above. A beautiful rainbow could be seen arched across the canvass that brought a feeling of hope and peace.

 In the picture at the end of the road stood Jesus with hands outstretched beckoning for the weary traveler to come. Just keep walking my child – you’re almost home! You’ve come through valleys, I’ve brought you through the storms – I’ve been with you in your dark times. Just trust me and keep holding on – you are nearing the golden shore of eternity where there are mansions bright. Your labors and toils are about over. I have a city prepared where sickness and death cannot enter. It’s prepared for those who keep loving and serving me, for them that trust and remain faithful.

 The neighbor looked at the woman staring at the picture of delicate artwork and said – “yes, at first you only saw the backside that made no sense. But in this embroidery work, it took me passing the sharp needle of the dark and ugly threads mixed and intertwined with the pretty bright ones to make this beautiful scene and a happy ending for this traveler!

 Can you say – Lord, take every trial and tear, every heartache and pain and weave it with every blessing and good thing I’ve had in my life and make a picture of your wonderful Grace? If we’ll keep holding on and serving God, He’ll turn our tears into diamonds that will one day dot our crown. The Lord is taking all the bad and ugly, the troubles and sorrows and He is weaving them into a crown of Glory for you. I want my Crown of Rejoicing.

 Remember that day that Job’s wife looked at her husband sitting in a pile of ashes with sore boils all over him? She saw ugliness. She saw an awful mess of confusion that didn’t make any sense. Job’s 3 friends also saw hopelessness. But they all were only seeing the backside of the frame. God wasn’t finished with His embroidered work. They saw failure and defeat but God in His infinite wisdom is getting ready to turn the frame over!! I’m writing to some people right now – hold on, your day is coming when you will see the whole picture! If you will remain Faithful, you will be amazed and glad you Trusted and served the Lord! Look around you. Look at God’s big creation. Look at the many colors of the flowers and blooms, the bright dazzling colors of the birds of paradise and the tropical fish, the fields of green, the blazing autumn leaves. This earth is God’s tapestry, the heavens are His canvass. Nobody can paint a picture like God can. Why don’t we put the brush in His hand and say – paint on master. Paint my life a beautiful picture for others to see.

 We see Job in the end of his life – God restored him double. The pain of his past has now been forgotten. His family has been reconciled. He’s now the proud dad of 7 more sons and 3 beautiful daughters. His fields and livestock replenished. Job said in closing out his book: **Job 42:5** – Now mine eye seeth thee. Now I see the whole picture, you loved me all along! God Bless you all!