

Troubles May Come, But Joy Wins The Battle.

The Lesson from the Gospel

John 14:1-14

Jesus said, **“Do not let your hearts be troubled.** Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.** Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. **I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.**

NRSV

Joy Meets Trouble

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands during challenge and controversy.

—Martin Luther King

Of course, Joy knew about Trouble and actually had respect for him, because he knew that Trouble helps his clients to mature and become stronger. He also knew that his clients do not like it when Trouble arrives, because most of the time, it is not a pleasant experience. So Joy was prepared to work a partnering deal with Trouble, but he knew that to work effectively with him, he would have to understand his operation.

Joy met Trouble for lunch, but Trouble was running late because his car would not start, and then he had a flat tire and got caught in traffic. Joy waited patiently for Trouble to arrive, deciding to have a light snack in the meantime. To his dismay, when his snack arrived, it wasn’t what he had ordered. He laughed to himself. Now Joy knew he was on Trouble’s schedule, and this could be a difficult meeting. Joy smiled kindly at the embarrassed waiter and reordered his snack.

In walked Trouble. No wonder people always say, “Here comes trouble,” Joy thought to himself when he spotted the poor unfortunate Joy Robber. Joy noticed how everyone in the restaurant shunned him, rolling their eyes and looking away when Trouble entered, tripping in the doorway. No one offered to help him up.

After gracefully getting back up on his feet and collecting the papers that had fallen out of his briefcase, Trouble strode confidently over to the table where Joy was waiting for him. "Please, Trouble, don't trip again and land on my snack," Joy prayed silently to himself.

Trouble had a firm handshake, and Joy noticed how powerful his presence was. Joy took out his notes and started the interview by congratulating Trouble on the way he creates strength in his clients. He also told Trouble that he believed a partnership between the two of them would be an excellent proposition, because Trouble would be creating strength in his clients while he, Joy, would bless them with gladness of heart. Trouble could benefit from this partnership, Joy explained, because Trouble is defeated eventually by the good cheer in their clients.

Trouble nodded. "I understand what you're trying to do, Joy," he said. "I'd like to help you. But it's really hard to get my clients to even smile when I show up. Look how all these people behaved when I tripped in the doorway," he continued glumly, resting his chin on his hand, his elbow landing in a dish of hot sauce for Joy's snack.

As Joy watched Trouble, he felt compassion for him. Joy asked him what he thought his clients needed to know that would help them in this proposed partnership. Trouble said, "Well, Joy, it's a hard concept but my clients have to realize that 'in their life they will have trouble.' But they must understand that I do not have the strength to destroy the 'Peace of God' or a Positive Attitude if they have it. I find that a client who maintains good cheer and a connection to God defeats me like a strong conqueror.

"Don't get me wrong! I can get creative and bring a number of difficult situations to my clients, but I don't have the power to take their Peace or their positive perspective. They, however, have the power to give it up."

Joy was delighted and intrigued with Trouble's wisdom. "Where do you suggest to your clients that they can find Peace and Positive Attitude?" Joy wanted to know.

Trouble looked up briefly at Joy and said: "You know, if my clients would just understand that I don't come to stay, they can weather the storm. They will find that after the darkest of nights the sun will still come up the next day. Sometimes clients believe I am there because they did something wrong. They must remember I serve both the righteous and the unrighteous. Ironically, the righteous tend to see a lot of me, but they conquer me with great vigor every single time." Trouble paused for a moment, taking off his glasses to clean them. They broke.

"Rats! Oh, well, I just happen to have a spare set of glasses right here in my briefcase," he said, indicating the briefcase he had placed on the table when he had arrived. Trouble leaned over to get the spare glasses, dragging his tie in the salsa dish as he did so.

“I’ve been around the block,” he continued, hardly seeming to notice his social gaffe. “I’ve been around since ancient times. If my clients looked through history, they would find two

truths: the first is that if they hold on to what is good, I won’t be forever in their lives. The second truth is that if they learn from past ‘lessons’ I have taught them, I don’t need to come around again for another cycle of the same tribulations. My clients must combine obedience with good observation, which will prevent continually repeating my performances.”

“Wow, Trouble!” Joy said. “I think your observations are both remarkable and profound! I believe that ours will be a splendid partnership! I think we should order our lunch now, don’t you? Where’s our waiter?”

As he looked around for the waiter, Joy thought about how much Trouble’s clients are in need of his services, and how beneficial their partnership would be for the clients. Joy was excited about this new prospect. He spotted the waiter. “We’re ready to order now,” he called out.

“Sorry, sir, kitchen’s closed,” answered the waiter.

(About Who Stole My Joy, by Sandra Steen, 2007)

I. Learning To Trust God Is The First Step Toward Success.

Ps 25:2 My God, I trust you. Please don’t let me be put to shame! Don’t let my enemies rejoice over me!

Ps 143:8 Tell me all about your faithful love come morning time because I trust you. Show me the way I should go because I offer my life up to you.

CEB

Hebrews 11:1-3 Trusting is being confident of what we hope for, convinced about things we do not see. It was for this that Scripture attested the merit of the people of old.

By trusting, we understand that the universe was created through a spoken word of God, so that what is seen did not come into being out of existing phenomena.

Complete Jewish Bible

It is Important To Keep Your Cool And Never Let The Devil See You Sweat.

On the day before his inauguration as president, someone asked Barack Obama whether he was sweating. “**Nah, I don’t sweat,**” he replied. “**You ever see me sweat?**” Not yet, but it’s early, a news report commented. When I was about to move to the United States with my wife in her wheelchair, I didn’t sweat, but I was extremely grateful for a promise God gave me. After a seminary chapel service, a student told me that during the service God had told her, “Tell John, Judges 18:6.” Neither of us knew

what this text said, so we went to look it up. In the NRSV it says, “ ‘Go in peace. The mission you are on is under the eye of the Lord.’ ” In

the TNIV it says, “ ‘Go in peace. Your journey has the Lord’s approval.’ ” It was a promise that made it easier to undertake the move to which I was committed, though obviously that required me to trust the promise. In effect, I counted it for God as faithfulness; in other words I reckoned that it was indeed an expression of God’s faithfulness and that it would prove to be so. Which it did.

(Genesis For Everyone, By John Goldingay. 2010)

II. You Must Believe In Who He Is.

If you lack trust in the divine creator, sustainer and saviour of our soul. Then, you have a problem when it comes to dealing with life's struggles. They will eat you up!

Remember when you were a child and you'd panic over something, but mom and dad acted like it was nothing. Well, that peace and confidence is what you can have in your Christian walk. However, it's up to you to recognize Who He Is? Then put your confidence and trust in Him. Acknowledging that He has never lost a battle, He has never lost a war, and He will bring you through this time of trouble.

Genesis 15:1 After these events, the **Lord’s word came** to Abram in a vision, “**Don’t be afraid, Abram. I am your protector.** Your reward will be very great.”

He is our protector and if we take Him at His Word, our reward will come as we see the victory of God in the midst of our troubles.

Recognize These Three Steps in Genesis 15 that guarantees the believer's success in facing trials or troubles.

(1) The Lord's Word.

Circumstances may come and go, but His Word is settled and will accomplish what it says it will.

Isaiah 21:1- As for me, this is my covenant with them, says the Lord. My spirit, which is upon you, and my words, which I have placed in your mouth won’t depart from your mouth, nor from the mouths of your descendants, nor from the mouths of your descendants’ children, says the Lord, forever and always.

(2) No fear. (Love sees hope, fear sees punishment.)

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment.

Don't let the Devil see you sweat. His perfect love casts out all fear.

(3) He's Your Protector, The I AM Is On Watch.

God has your back, you don't have to worry about a thing. You have His Word and Name at your disposal. Being armed with the WHOLE armour of God.

Ephesians 6:13-17 Therefore, pick up the full armor of God so that you can stand your ground on the evil day and after you have done everything possible to still stand. So stand with the belt of truth around your waist, justice as your breastplate, and put shoes on your feet so that you are ready to spread the good news of peace. Above all, carry the shield of faith so that you can extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is God's word.

III. God Will Do Whatever You Ask In His Name.

If you have learn to trust in Him, and abide in His Love. Then the revelation of who He is and the power of His Word is resident inside you. This gives you the confidence to know that He is the Living God, the El Shaddai, and that with God inside of you. You are going to pray for the right things, and Word will be settled and produce in you " Good Things. "

Conclusion

Take what you have today, take what you know and put it to good use. Trust God that whatever you have at your disposal, that He is able to make it a mighty tool for His Glory. Don't worry about what you don't have or the failures you have had in the past. Focus on the Lord whom has given you His Word, and whose trust you have placed your life in. He has good plans for you and will give you success.

And he [David] took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones out of the brook for himself, and put them in a shepherd's vessel which he had, even in a bag. And his sling was in his hand. And he drew near the Philistine

1 Sam. 17:40 MKJV

As David drew near Goliath, he had the following confession: You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of Jehovah of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Jehovah will deliver you into my hand today, and I will strike you and take your head from you and give the bodies of the army of the Philistines to the birds of the air today, and to the wild beasts of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel (1 Sam. 17:45-46 MKJV).

Transferring this to our spiritual battle today, we can learn an important lesson from this event and use it in our lives.

David's weapons

David went to the creek with his staff in his hand. The staff represents faith and trust in God. David had experienced God's faithfulness and power in the past.

The Lord who has delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine (1 Sam. 17:37 MKJV).

The brook is a picture of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. David found his strength and his weapons in the Word of God. He shall drink of the brook in the way; therefore He shall lift up the head (Ps. 110:7 MKJV).

David's weapons were five smooth stones. The five smooth stones represent the name of Jesus, God's Word, the confession, worship, and prayer.

The shepherd's vessel represents the heart of David. He had preserved the Word of God in his heart. What his heart was filled with his mouth could speak.

The sling is David's mouth. It is in faith and with his mouth David confesses. With our mouth we confess to salvation (Rom. 10:10). One stone was enough to defeat Goliath. David confesses Jesus' name, and this stone hits Goliath in the forehead.

(About The Voice of God: Experiencing A Life Changing Relationship With The Lord, Frank E. Åbyholm, 2011)

