

THE PROPHETIC WORD TODAY

Daniel: My Good – His Glory

Text: Daniel 3

INTRODUCTION:

Corrie Ten Boom and her family secretly housed Jews in their home during WW II. Their "illegal" activity was discovered, and Corrie and her sister Bessie were sent to the German death camp, Ravensbruck.

In her book The Hiding Place Corrie relates an incident which taught her the principle I began to teach you last week. She and her sister, Betsy, had just been transferred to the worst German prison camp they had seen yet, Ravensbruck. Upon entering the barracks, they found them extremely overcrowded and flea-infested. Their Scripture reading that morning in 1 Thessalonians had reminded them to rejoice always, pray constantly, and give thanks in all circumstances. Betsy told Corrie to stop and thank the Lord for every detail of their new living quarters. Corrie at first flatly refused to give thanks for the fleas, but Betsy persisted. She finally succumbed. During the months spent at that camp, they were surprised to find how openly they could hold Bible study and prayer meetings without guard interference. It was several months later when they learned that the guards would not enter the barracks because of the fleas.

I am confident that Hanniniah, Mishael, and Azariah, better known by their Babylonian names of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, must have also wondered why God had allowed the trial of the Golden Statue to come into their lives. The threat to them was far more grave than the threat of fleas. If they did not bow down to worship the image, King Nebuchadnezzar had promised to throw them into the fiery furnace.

But they were to learn, as I hope we will all learn, that God had allowed this trial to come into their life for their good and for His glory.

I. GOD WILL PERMIT ADVERSITY TO COME IN OUR LIVES FOR OUR GOOD AND HIS GLORY.

1 Peter 4:12-14 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

In Psalm 23, we are not promised a way around or over the valley but the sustaining companionship of the Good Shepherd through the valley.

The presence of adversity in our life is not an indication that God has abandoned us but on the contrary, that God wants to work even more actively in our lives for our good and His glory.

II. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ALLOWING ADVERSITY IN OUR LIFE IS FOR OUR GOOD.

A. For purification of our lives from sin.

This does not seem to be the case with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. This is not always the reason for adversity.

The disciples of Jesus once ... asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. John 9:2-3

But if there is unconfessed and unrepented sin in our lives, God certainly will use adversity for our good to motivate us to repent and confess that our lives may be pure.

Hebrews 12:6-7 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

When adversity comes, the first question we ought to ask is, "Is there unconfessed and unrepented sin in my life that the Lord in His desire to do good for me is motivating me to deal with?"

If the answer is yes then 1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us **our** sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

If the answer is no, there are other ways God wants to accomplish good in your life through adversity.

B. To Get our Attention - To snatch our involvement away from the cares of this world.

Remember Jesus' explanation of the parable of the sower in Matthew 13:18-23 The thorn occupied ground pictures the life of a person who received the word of God and it did produce life in him. But the person is unfruitful because his life is preoccupied with the pursuit of riches and the worries of this world.

1. This person is the carnal Christian described in 1 Corinthians 3:1-4
2. The carnal Christian is a saved person who is not controlled by the Spirit and therefore appears to be lost in many ways.
3. Another way to express this truth is to say that God sometimes allows adversity in the lives of carnal Christians to bring them out of their carnality and back into a closer walk with Himself.

God wants to focus our attention back on the Burden Bearer.

*Matthew 11:28-30 Come to Me, all **you** who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light."*

4. When a child is hurt, where does she retreat?

5. When things are tough, where does a believer go?

Psalm 46:1 God *is* our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

C. For the deepening and enlarging of your faith.

God may use adversity to bring you to faith. Present gospel. How many of you came to Christ during a period of adversity?

God may desire to further you on the progression of faith.

James 1:3-4 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

D. For the enhancing of your testimony.

Illustration of Pat and Judith Murphey and illness of their daughter Kristin.

God brought them to faith through the adversity.

Later God enlarged and deepened their faith as medical science gave up and they were thrust into total dependence on the Lord alone.

God enhanced their testimony and enlarged their service such that by the time Kristin went to be with Jesus, more than 60 individuals had been saved as others sought the source of strength and peace demonstrated in the Murphey's lives.

E. For the increase of your opportunity for service.

III. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ADVERSITY IS THAT, AS HIS GOAL FOR OUR GOOD IS ACCOMPLISHED, HE IS GLORIFIED - HE IS MADE KNOWN TO OTHERS.

A. His presence is shown.

B. His power is revealed.

C. His promises are proven true.

Have you been thinking, if I could just get past this trouble, this difficulty, this adversity, then I could really serve the Lord and glorify Him. What you need to do is to glorify Him in the midst of the adversity rather than seeking an escape from it. If you will honor Him in the midst of it, He will be glorified!

CONCLUSION: Bow for prayer.

How many are in the midst of a fiery trial, a period of adversity right now in your life? Raise hands.

If you are lost, this is God's opportunity for you to come to Him in faith thru Christ. If you have never been saved and you believe that is what God is doing in your life, raise hand. Sinners prayer.

If you are saved but you are aware of sin that is unrepented and unconfessed, and God could be chastening you in this adversity, raise hand. lead in prayer of confession.

If saved and no known sin, and you would say Lord I want you to use this painful period in my life for my good, to deepen faith, to enhance my testimony, to enlarge my service and to reveal your presence, power, and promises in my life, I want to cooperate in faith with you and for You to be glorified in me.