

Just when you thought it was all over...

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Throughout time mankind found itself in a situation when there seemed to be no hope and no outcome. We here in South Africa cannot appreciate the difficulty of wars that happened in the previous century, because it was too far removed from us. *But in our personal lives we all got to a position when you thought OK, now it is all over, I don't see any hope.*

Can you remember of an example? Can you remember how you felt at the time? (Devastation, fear, hopelessness, giving up.) Maybe it was a relationship that you thought, this is now the end. Maybe you thought you would get fired now. Maybe you were scared for your life.

Well, if you are here today listening (or reading) this, can you remember how you got out of this situation? When you think back to these examples, can you see how God helped you, even when you did not serve Him?

If God helped you, what does it say about his character? Do you think He wants to help you? The answer is always YES.

Read Jer 29:11, John 3:16. Can you see God's love? This is his character.

Let us go a bit deeper – Psalm 121. Bible scholars recon that David wrote this when he was fleeing from Absalom. (2 Sam 15-18). David the King was in distress as his own son was stealing the kingdom from underneath him. David was the one who fought the wars, not Absalom, but the latter deceived the people and King David was unfairly treated by his own people.

He had to flee and I think that he thought that this was it, apart from his trust in God. (Because he said nothing when Shimei walked next to the chariot and cursed him profusely in 2 Sam 16, which tells me he might have thought "I've lost my kingdom". His hope is recorded in 2 Sam 15:24, when he sent the ark and the priests back). In his distress, David told several people to return to the city, because he was concerned about what would be the best for each one of them. He kept his integrity and his faith and rather focussed on what would have been better for others. This shows his humility. (At the end God came through and restored him.)

When we are in a stressful situation and when people curse us, we need to keep our integrity and still think what is best for others.

Let us consider the first time that sin entered mankind, Gen 3:8-9. When they sinned the first-time Adam and Eve experienced fear, loneliness, guilt and shame. It must have been traumatic for them not knowing negative feelings. They knew that they screwed up so much that they were now separated from God.

The Son of God, being innocent in the matter experienced for the first-time separation from his beloved. *When I wrote these notes Jesus told me his heart was broken for the first time and that he did not know what this was until then.* Remember that until the point of their sin Adam, Eve and God were in perfect union. Because God is perfect the act of disobedience automatically separated them from Him, but He felt the loss much deeper than they did. (Satan knows this and likes to hurt Jesus whenever he can by attacking his creation.)

Read Ps 24 – Remember who God is. Remember that God is in control

Verse 1 is like Gen 1:1

Verse 3 means this: Who do you think you are to approach God, to mention his name? Who has the right to even mention God's name, the One who is holy and creator of all?

Verse 4 gives the answer – the children of God.

In this Psalm LORD is written in capitals, because it is God's name, correctly pronounced as "Yahwah". (Today He wants me to tell you this - it is a privilege to know his Name.)

He is the Mighty One, yet He is so loving and so gentle. He died on the cross for you. *Despite a broken heart of losing people and mankind keeping on hurting him, He still came down and suffered the most severe death anyone had to, to restore that union with you.*

Now do you think He will help you now with whatever you are going through? How can we be so distracted to look at the waves around us instead of on Jesus?

And we all do this!

Read 1 Peter 5:1-11 – Can you find strength to carry on?

What does Phil 4:13 say?

So, what we do next is to say, thank you King Jesus for being here for us. I will decide to carry on. I will decide to trust God and I will decide to not let me be distracted with fear and insecurity. To make these decisions is personal and only you and I can do this. You must decide that you will endure and continue.

Find the strength in God. In closing we read Psalm 27.

Humility. We need to be careful not to stress so much about our problem that it becomes our idol, e.g. if we focus too much on not having money, it can become our idol. We need to realize who God is and to tell our problem how big our God is. *God is not a man that will lie - all his promises and his prophecies will come to pass.*

If He loves us so much that He died for us, would he not be interested in the small things? Of course, he does.

Let us get onto our knees and humble ourselves before the Lord. We should repent of our self-pity, our doubt and fears and humble ourselves before the Lord.

I am sorry God, for being childish and self-centred sometimes. I am sorry, Lord, for forgetting what you had to do already for me. I am sorry Lord for my doubt. I am sorry Lord that I treat others poorly because of a few things, that are a molehill, that I made a mountain of.

Today I decided to try harder, to be tougher, to have more patience with others and to be more thankful.

Amen.

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