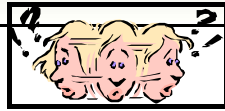


“Trust During The Storm”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Recently a number of upsetting events have occurred that I just do not understand. I either do not understand why they happened now, or why they happened at all.

Storms occur, people get hurt and/or die, disagreements or misunderstandings take place. One could get angry and yell at these situations, or at God about these situations. The very small word “why” could have a very large exclamation point behind it at times like these (And possibly some stomped feet or thrown pillows).

Let us, during times like these, remember two verses out of Proverbs:

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverb 3:5-6 NIV

Thank God he is worthy of our trust. He knows the de-

Foot-
notes:

tails about circumstances that we do not know. He may not have caused an unfortunate circumstance that we face, but as the book of Romans tells us, God can enter into ALL things, and turn them to the good for those who walk in his ways. (See Romans 8:28)

So, let us humbly hold our heads high, and remember that even during sad times, our Heavenly Father is still on his throne in heaven. Let’s not despair at these times, but continue to pray that he will enter into these circumstances. Trust God, and watch him work. We may find that instead of our heads shaking in unbelief or doubt, we may find our heads “spinning” as we see our Lord miraculously bring glory to himself through these situations. So, trust his wisdom.

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...with The Sojourner

“Peace, Do Not Be Afraid” (Teaching Sketch)

Judges 6:15-24 (NIV)



Have you ever noticed that when faced with what is thought to be a daunting task people will often begin to say why they are not the person to do it?

An Angel

Gideon^[a] has just been told, by the angel of the LORD, to go and save Israel in the strength he has. The angel assured Gideon, “Am I not sending you?”

But, But, But

Gideon immediately begins to recite to the LORD reality as he sees it and understands reality to be.

1. My clan is the weakest in Manasseh. Gideon’s identity is in his kin folk, not even just his immediate family, but in his whole tribe.
2. Gideon then says he is the least of what he sees as a pathetic bunch.

Gideon, certainly did not see himself as a person who could have any affect on these brawling contentious

people who had for seven years greatly oppressed him and his nation.

I Will Be With You

Notes:

“I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, brawling contentious ones, together.” the angel tells him.

[a] Feller; ie. Warrior

I, I, I

How does Gideon reply to this encouraging commitment from the Angel of the LORD? His reply is still all about himself. Gideon’s first words are, “If now I have found favor in your eyes give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you.” Gideon is beginning to attempt to breach his understanding with God’s instructions.

Now, Gideon was wise to have chosen to bring an offering to prove the presence of God for it is in this way we are told in Malachi to prove God. It is important to

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture:

Judges 6:15-24 (NIV)

15 "But Lord , ^[a] " Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh ^[b], and I am the least in my family."
 16 The LORD answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."
 17 Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. 18 Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you."
 And the LORD said, "I will wait until you return."
 19 Gideon went in, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah ^[c] of flour he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to him under the oak.
 20 The angel of God said to him, "Take the

Notes:
^[a] or sir
^[b] Causing to forget
^[c] That is, probably about 3/5 bushel (about 22 liters)
^[d] Fawn
^[e] Father of Help

meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And Gideon did so. 21 With the tip of the staff that was in his hand, the angel of the LORD touched the meat and the unleavened bread. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the LORD disappeared. 22 When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, "Ah, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!" 23 But the LORD said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die."
 24 So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah^[d] of the Abiezrites^[e].

“Peace, Do Not Be Afraid” (Teaching Sketch)

Judges 6:15-24 (NIV)

note that at this request God was patient with Gideon.

Gideon’s Offering

Gideon’s offering was not a paltry offering. Remember he had been hiding in a wine press working the wheat in order to make flour, something he would not have had in great supply. He also sacrificed a goat which, given the oppression of the last seven years, would have been quite dear to him.

Rock of Revelation

Gideon, following the angel’s instructions placing his offering on a rock under the tree (Jesus died on a tree). When the angel touched the offering with the tip of his staff. “fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread.” The angel of the LORD was then gone after having revealed truth on the rock (the rock of revelation).

Peace

Gideon knowing that no man could see God and live was reassured he would not die. He there then builds an altar of witness to the LORD. He called it “The LORD is Peace.”

Notes:

Israel & Israelites — Those who prevail with God

Midian & Midianites — Brawling contentious ones

Amalekites — a misery wicked workman (The Israelites had to pass through their territory in Arabia to reach Canaan .)

Gaza — *strong, vehement, harsh:*— fierce, + greedy, mighty, power, roughly, strong.

[Amorite — to challenge with words.]

Peace — Nothing missing nothing broken