

When Life Gets Ugly!

Habakkuk 3:17-18

Habakkuk 3:17-18

*“Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be
on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may
fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock
may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd
in the stalls--*

*Yet I will rejoice in the Lord .
I will joy in the God of my salvation.”*

Have You Ever Been There When Life Gets Ugly?

- If you haven't been there, just keep on living
- The truth is that life comes with “built-in problems”
- You will not go through life without hardships and pain
- Your heart may be broken at least once or twice
- In life you will be lied on, persecuted, betrayed, and despised because.....that's life

The Bible Characters Show us The Facts of Life!

- King David was a great man of God and a great worshiper, but that didn't exempt his life from pain, deception, and deceit, (some, self-imposed)
- Job was a righteous man (complimented for his character by GOD Himself), but he endured more suffering than it seems humanly possible.
- Sometimes you may be in the pit, other times in the fire, or at other times hoping, like Elijah, that Jezebel doesn't find you
- Sometimes it will seem like the devil himself has it in for you!

Remember the Words of Scripture

John 10:10

“The thief does not come, except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.”

1 Peter 5:8

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

***THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN THANKING AND
PRAISING GOD DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!***

That is What Habakkuk Was Doing!

- He was standing for God against Satan in the midst of chaos, confusion, and the disappointment of his Jewish nation before God
- That had to make hell mad and heaven applaud!
(“Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation”)
- He basically decided that he would exalt God in his life even when it didn’t make sense

In Spite Of It All!

- Going through a season of sickness
- Going through the loss of a loved one or ones
- Walking through the fire of divorce, or other family turmoil
- Crying yourself to sleep over your prodigal children
- “My company is downsizing and might let me go!”
- I thought I would be married by now.....
maybe never

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Christians, This Is What *Not* To Do!

- Let your “feelings and emotions” take over your actions (Agape love is not based on feelings, John 3:16)
- Run to your refrigerator and drown your sorrows in food and alcohol
- Overdose on prescription medication
- Accuse God of not loving or caring for me (As much as Job lost, he didn't blame God, Job 1:22)

Christians, This Is What *Not* To Do!

- Act as if nothing is wrong
- Be a “Pretty Praise Person” with God

Only praise God when everything is pretty

When the weather in your life is nice

When all the bills are paid

When the body feels good

When all of the children are saved

This is What *To Do!*

1 Samuel 30:6, “Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved.....But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.”

Isaiah 61:3 , put on “... the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified.”

Psalms 103:1, “Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!”

Ugly Life Situations Call For Ugly Praise!

Two Examples

- Job 1:1 The Bible says that Job was perfect and upright, one that feared God and stayed away from evil
- Then in Job 1:13-22, in 10 verses he loses everything
 - Some Sabeans came and took his herds, killed his servants (all but one)
 - Some Chaldeans took his herds, killed all of his servants (all but one)
 - All of his 10 sons and daughters were killed by a bad wind storm that collapsed the oldest brother's house where they enjoying fellowship together
 - All of this news hit Job's life in only 10 verses

What Did He Do?

Job 1:20

*“Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head;
and he fell to the ground and worshiped.”*

***Life Got Ugly, But Job Praised
God In Its Ugliness!***

David Is Another Example Of Ugly Praise

- 1Samuel 30:1-7 David and his army return to his camp from a military campaign and find all of their belongings burned up and all of their wives and children kidnapped
- The Bible says that the people cried so hard, that they literally could shed no more tears.
- The Bible says that David was greatly troubled inside, because the soldiers contemplated killing him

What David Did Next Turned Everything Around!

1 Samuel 30:6

“Now David was greatly distressed, for the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord.”

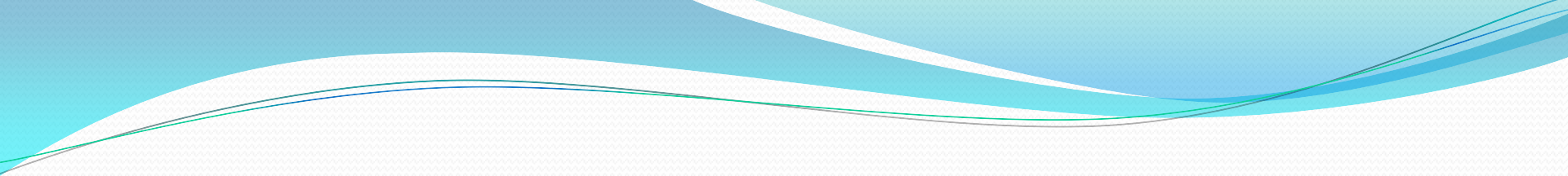
From the Time He Did That, Their Lives Turned Around; David And The Soldiers Recovered Everybody the Devil Had Stolen!

Blessing God When Life Gets Ugly, Doesn't Make Sense!

- When Job praised God, in spite of his circumstances, he got double everything he had lost
- When David praised God, in spite of his tragedy, he recovered all of his kidnapped families
- When Jonah praised God in a “whale motel” after 3 days and 3 nights of suffering and prayer, God forgave him and had the whale spit him out
He didn't come out “*smelling like a rose*,” but he came out!

What About You?

***The Next Time Life
Comes At You
Hard, What Are
You Going To Do?***



**PRAISE
HIM
ANYWAY!**

1Peter 4:15-16

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins Acts 17:30

Confess Christ Acts 8:37

Be Baptized Acts 8:38