

What to do when the Bottom Falls Out

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I. Introduction to the Speaker.

II. Introduction.

- A. Sooner or later the bottom will fall out for us.
- B. We will all go through hard times.
- C. We will deal with lost love, lost life, and all sorts of things; what will you do?

III. Two questions you will ask, but should not.

A. God, where are you?

1. Example of a girl who fell several stories and landed on metal spikes. The mother asked, where was God? The doctor said, he was in the same place he was when His Son took the nails.

- a. We must arm ourselves with this mentality - God does know and care and love us.
- b. We will never face a time when He is not with us no matter what.
- c. God will work in that situation to bring good out of it. (Romans 8:28)

2. The answer to that question is that He is on his throne and in control. He will not forsake us.

B. God, why did you allow this to happen to me?

- 1. God is not obligated to answer our why questions.
- 2. God sees, He hears, He knows, and He speaks, but sometimes He is silent.

IV. Two good questions you can ask God.

A. What has happened?

- 1. You must face the situation whatever has happened.
- 2. The example of Larry Woods who was going blind and faced up to it.

B. As a result of what has happened, what am I going to do?

- 1. We cannot always control what happens to us, but we can control what we do about it.

2. Larry loves life and lives it since his goal is to glorify God. The problem comes when we do not have a goal. When your goals are right sometimes tragedies are not that final.

V. Two kinds of tragedies.

A. Consequences of wrong choices and actions.

1. Example of two people who marry when one is a believer. The nonbeliever walks out of your life.

a. The law of the harvest - you cannot sow your wild oats and hope for a good crop. God will not stop the universe and reverse all the laws simply because you ask Him to. Many of the tragedies in our own life are a result of our own doing.

b. Jesus needs to be our chief lover.

2. If you want to marry the right person, etc. you need to become the right person.

3. It is deeply troubling to find those who are not deeply concerned with seeking God. Those are the ones for whom the bottom fall out the easiest.

a. We have to pay the price early on. The example of a man who was unwilling to pay the price to participate in a Christian Conference.

b. It is those who learn to walk with God in the light who best handle life in the dark.

B. The tragedies we do not cause.

1. The example of a man who was asked to re-possess a car.

a. He was shot through the neck and it clipped his spinal cord.

b. When asked how he was doing, he said he was very positive about his future.

c. He told the speaker that having a quiet time and memorizing verses really helped. Jesus was with him. He said that he was so fortunate since he still had his mind. He prays for the one who shot him even though he got off free.

d. You may not be able to determine what happens, but you can determine what to do with it.

2. The story of Job. (Job 1)

a. Job was cursed, yet he never knew why he suffered - he never knew the conversation that took place between God and Satan.

b. Job fell to the ground and worshipped after all that happened to him. He did not sin nor did he blame God.

c. Job proved that Satan is a liar, but he never had insight into his suffering.

3. The story of Jacob. (Genesis 47-48)

- a. He buried his wife and moved on.
- b. Jacob knew that there is a future after the death of a mate.
- c. Ezekiel did what God commanded right after his wife died also. (Ezekiel 24:18)

4. The example of Hudson Taylor.

- a. He lost his children; he lost his wife.
- b. He committed his wife to the Lord and thanked Him for her in her dying. He then solemnly committed himself to the Lord again. Burying her he said, "The Lord gave and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

5. The example of George Mueller.

- a. At the death of his wife he quoted the Psalm: "thou art good and doeth good" (Psalm 118).
- b. God was good in giving her, in leaving her long, and in taking her from him, he declared.

6. The example of Joseph Scriven.

- a. His bride died before the night before his wedding.
- b. His second bride died before the wedding.
- c. He experienced illness and all sorts of trial.
- d. Yet he wrote a song, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

VI. Summary and review.

VII. Suggestions.

A. Memorize Scripture and spend time with Him.

B. Get some depth in your life before that time comes.

1. It is easy when things are going well for us to coast and not develop our walk with God.

2. Develop that deep walk with God every day you live.

C. Become involved in the lives of other people.

1. It will not prevent you from going into the darkness, but it may help you come out.

2. If you are deeply involved in giving your life away, knowing that God wants to use you in their lives will help you get through it.

D. Commit everything you have to the will of God, and ask God to have nothing to come into your life that does not have His approval and blessing.

E. Do not become bitter.

1. We can easily become bitter towards those who hurt us, to our friends, to those who have.
2. We have to ask God to help us not become bitter towards these and also towards him.
3. Sometimes He does things that we would not choose.
4. It is not what happens - it is what you do with what happens that matters.

F. Beware a selfish theology.

1. A dangerous theology is the 'King's Kids' theology that teaches that God is our servant and will always make us healthy, wealthy, and wise. This is a lie.
2. While God can heal, sometimes He chooses not to.

G. Be an overcomer.

1. God made you to be this way.
2. If you are alive, God has a purpose for you.

VIII. Conclusion.

Application questions.

1. What illustration spoke to you the most about suffering? What about it captured your attention?

2. What is it about the two bad questions that are not appropriate? On the other side, why are the two good questions proper to ask.

3. What steps will you take today to prepare for future suffering? Are you prepared to commit everything in your life to God?
