

What Have You Done For Me Lately?

Daniel 3:13-16, “*Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.*”

I want to tell you of a young man who was complaining, “*No body ever does anything for me!*” A fatherly gentleman said to him, “*When your mother died and your father deserted you, I raised you. I paid your way through collage. I got you your job. I bought you a car. I introduced you to the girl that you married and paid for your wedding. I bought you your home. What do you mean nobody has done anything for you?*”

The young man replied, “*Yea, but what have you don for me lately?*”

The three Hebrew children were challenged not to worship the true God, to join the fickle crowd. They faced a fiery furnace if they did follow the king's command. Their answer is found in verses 17-18, “*If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*”

God give us a thanksgiving like that

Of course, God is able to answer my prayer, and, if He does not answer the way I would choose, I will still recognize Him as Supreme and trust His knowledge!

FAITH ACCEPTS CONTRADICTIONS!

“If all my years were summer, how could I know
What my Lord means by His `White as snow?’
If all my days were sunny, could I say,
`In His fair land He wipes all tears away?’
If I were never weary, could I keep
Close in my hear, `He gives His loved ones sleep?’
Were no griefs mine, might I not come to deem,
The life-eternal is but a baseless dream?
My winter and my tears and weariness
Even my griefs may be - His way to bless
I call them ills, yet - that can surely be
Nothing but love, - that shows my Lord to me.”

WE NEED TROUBLE

We need the *tests* that God allows. The question is “*How do we react to adverse*

circumstances?

What do you keep record of?

Thanksgiving is often *not* remembering those unhappy experiences but, rather reminiscing, only, about our joys, hopes, the cheerful times we have known.

Jesus said, “*In the world you will have tribulations, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world*” (John 16:33). He said, “*In Me you will have peace!*”

A true Thanksgiving spirit is not what we have or what we don't have, but what we are. True Thanksgiving is like love, or the power the Holy Spirit, it is the result of Christ's life *within* us. We simply let Christ express His life through us.

The Bible does not say, “*God will give us love,*” but it says that, “*God IS love!*” Jesus didn't just say, “*I give you life,*” but rather He said, “*I AM life!*”

Jesus was “a man of sorrows.” yet His life was always radiant. He always had an inner joy. He never cast a shadow over any situation. He never depressed anyone by His presence. Those who feel that religion makes one solemn, are wrong. True religion should make us **REJOICE!**

Proverbs 17:22, “*A cheerful heart is good medicine.*”

Proverbs 15:13, “*A happy heart makes the face cheerful*” (Habitually cheerful)

Each of these three Hebrew men said, “*My God will deliver me, **but if not** – we'll serve Him anyhow!*”

Abraham said, when God asked him to sacrifice his son, “*God will provide a ram, but if not, **MY DEVOTION IS UNMOVED!***”

When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he cried out, “*Behold the Lamb of God.*” But, later, when he was in prison, he asked, “*Art thou He who should come, or do we look for another?*”

God give us this attitude: “*If God doesn't do things the way I expect, I'll serve Him just the same.*” – “*I'll be thankful if He does – but, if not, I'll be thankful anyway!*”

Job's experience was to show if Job served God “*for nothing*” – for no reason? Satan asked God, “*If Job You didn't pay him so well, do you think he would still serve you?*” Job's reaction was, “*God will bring me forth as gold, **but if not**, though He slay me, yet I will serve Him.*” Job said, “*God will protect me, but if not, yet shall I trust Him, for I know that My redeemer lives!*”

Romans 8:38-39, “*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Verse 37 says, “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through*

Him who loved us."

2 Corinthians 2:14, *"Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him."* Paul was in prison at the time he wrote this.

One higher than Abraham, Job, John the Baptist, or the Apostle Paul, said, in the Garden of Gethsemane, *"Father, if it is possible let this cup pass from Me, **BUT IF NOT** . . ."*

It was this spirit, of *"Not my will, but Thine be done,"* that made redemption an accomplished fact.

If answers to prayers are delayed, if there are blessings you think God should do, our attitude should be, *"I'm thankful if I receive them, but, if I don't receive them, I'm thankful anyhow."*

Satan is perfectly helpless against the kind of Christian goes into the fire singing!

Hebrews 11:36 tells us of the Old Testament saints, *"Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison."*

*"Across the night, leads the path of God
It was not where the flesh delighteth - the feet of Jesus trod
What though the path be lonely, - and dark -and bleak -and lone.
Through crags and tangles cross it, Praise God, we will go on!"*

When the king came the next morning to see the three Hebrew men in the fiery furnace, Daniel 3:25 says, *"He said, 'Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like the Son of God.'"*