

THE CHRISTIAN AND DISCOURAGEMENT MARK 10:17-22

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We humans are endowed with multiple emotions.
- B. The one most desired is joy.
- C. There is the emotion of anger.
- D. The least desired is the emotion of sorrow.
- E. The emotion of love is the most productive and attractive of all our emotions.
- F. The emotion of compassion is very beneficial and strong.
- G. Each emotion we possess is God-given.
- H. This means that each emotion is naturally good.
- I. The key to understanding this lesson is found in Proverbs 3:5 and 4:23.
- J. These two verses will assist us in our study today.
- K. Christianity is **designed** to produce positive thinking in its adherents at all times (Rom.8:37-39; Phil.4:4-8; Jms.1:1ff).
- L. This does not mean that a Christian will never experience sorrow (Phil.2:27-28).**
- M. Fear is an emotion that can be detrimental to our physical and spiritual lives (Matt.10:28ff).
- N. Positive thinking, biblically speaking, is faith. Faith is undeterred confidence in God's Word and ability.
- O. "Discourage" means "to deprive of courage, hope, or confidence; dishearten; to advise or persuade (a person) to refrain; to prevent or try to prevent by disapproving or raising objections or obstacles.
- P. KEY: This lesson is by no means an assault upon those who battle depression every day brought on by chemical imbalances in their bodies.
- Q. Nor is this lesson designed to be a cure all for all issues we Christians face.
- R. Its purpose is to lead us to that fount of help we need for all situations we face in this life.

BODY:

I. THE CAUSES OF DISCOURAGEMENT

- A. Discouragement stems from sorrow; sorrow is the emotion; it should be temporary; discouragement can become a way of life.
- B. **Listening to the wrong type of advice or speech (Num.13:26-33).**
- C. Looking at godly discipline as evil (Num.16:41-42).
- D. Learning of a sad occurrence (Jos.7:1-6).
- E. Looking at a set back as the ultimate defeat (Jos.7:7-9).
- F. Lacking the necessary information concerning a matter (Jos.7:10-12). We Christians should never, "Jump to any conclusions" (Jms.1:1ff).
- G. Looking at matters from the standpoint of personal ability (Jud.6:11-15; Jer.1:4-6).
- H. Looking at ourselves as inferior when compared to the enemy (1 Kng.19:1-3).
- I. Letting the size of the obstacle overwhelm us (1 Sam.17:1-11).
- J. Looking at the prosperity of the wicked in the wrong way (Jer.12:1; Psa.73:1-16).
- K. Lacking the necessary root to sustain us (Matt.13:20-21).
- L. Letting the cares of this world choke us (Matt.13:22).
- M. Letting past sins overtake us (Matt.27:3-5).
- N. Learning of a required Godly task (Mark 10:17-22).

- O. Looking at others too closely or critically (Luke 4:31-34; John 6:70).
- P. Looking at our brother's repentance with disdain; we place ourselves above God when we act this way (Luke 15:25-31).
- Q. Letting others dictate our faith to us (John 9:22).
- R. Letting fear overtake us (Acts 9:26).
- S. Looking at life as though abandoned by God (1 Cor.10:12).
- T. Looking at trials as punishment (1Cor.10:13).
- U. **Letting negative thoughts find a resting place in our hearts (Eph.4:31).**
- V. Letting the ungodly behavior of others turn us away from Jesus (3 John 9-11).
- W. Looking at suffering unjustly (1 Pet.2:2, 18-23; 3:13-18; 4:13). **KEY:** These were newborn babes in Christ; did God expect them to face faithfully great difficulties so early in their Christian walk? Even if they were mistreated God expected their loyalty.

II. THE CURE FOR DISCOURAGEMENT

- A. **THINGS PROSPECTS SHOULD KNOW:** (1) Trials and suffering are a part of the Christian life (Matt.10:16-39; Acts 9:16; **2Tim.3:11-12**; Jms.1:2-4); (2) following Christ could cause you to be separated from your family; (3) following Christ can cause men to hate you; (4) following Christ can lead to your house being divided; (5) it costs something to be a Christian (Luke 14:25ff; **Heb.11:24-26**).
- B. **EXPLANATION:** Trials and sufferings are designed to teach us reliance on God (Phil.4:11-13).
- C. Trials and suffering can produce joy in our lives (Acts 5:41; 16:19-25; Phil.1:12-18; Jms.1:2; 1 Pet.4:12-14).
- D. Trials and suffering can strengthen our evangelistic efforts (Acts 16:25ff).
- E. Trials and suffering are not unbearable (1 Cor.10:11-13).
- F. Trials and suffering can strengthen our desire to go Heaven (2 Cor.4:8-5:2).
- G. Trials and suffering can strengthen our resolve (Phil.4:4-5; Jms.1:3-4).
- H. Trials and suffering can strengthen our prayer lives (Phil.4:6-7; Jms.1:5-8).
- I. **ILLUSTRATION:** Psalm 40:1-5
- J. **APPLICATION:** If I deal with my trials accordingly, I can assist my brethren (Phil.1:12-18).