



Gospel Broadcasting and Publishing

The Mission Trail

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“LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST.” — JOHN 4:35

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THE MISSION TRAIL

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The SEVEN Tests of JOB - - - Part TWO

Radio Broadcast for August 26, 1979

Good morning to all the listeners of the broadcast! We are certainly glad to come to you again by means of radio with the gospel message. In this series we continue with the book of Job, specifically dealing with the SEVEN TESTS OF JOB. He had indeed great and sore trials but the scriptures say: "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." Job 1:1.

In the previous message we considered two of the tests, prosperity and adversity. Instead of "going from rags to riches" he went from riches to rags, so to speak. His riches were taken away swiftly and he was left in poverty. How marvelous that he was still able to say the Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away! So he was tested to the extreme or the ultimate! Perhaps one might think they have grace to face the great challenge of life and yet find themselves short when faced with the little day to day annoyances. We may indeed, be called to pass through the great tests of life and again, we might never have to go through some of these severe trials which Job met; yet, one thing is sure, we are called daily to be faithful in the little things.

One scripture expresses the writer's thought in this way: "Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression." --Psa. 19:13. Being faithful in little things will prepare us for greater tests:

LITTLE THINGS

We call him strong who stands unmoved,
Calm as some tempest-beaten rock--
When some great trouble hurls its shock;
We say of him, "His strength is proved;"
But when the spent storm folds its wings,
How bears he then life's little things?

We call him great that does some deed
That echo bears from shore to shore--
Does that, and then does nothing more;
Yet would his work earn richer meed,
When brought before the King of kings,
Were he but great in little things.

We closely guard our castle gates
When great temptations loudly knock;
Draw every bolt, clinch every lock.
And sternly fold our bars and gates;
Yet some small door wide open swings
At the sly touch of little things.

But what is life? Drops make the sea;
And petty cares and small events
Small causes and small consequents,
Make up the sum for you and me;
Then oh for strength to meet the stings,
That arm the points of little things!

The tests of Job already considered were these--One, Prosperity and Two, Adversity. This brings us to the Third, SORROW! Job was deprived of all his children! He lost them all in one swift storm! I believe Job was an affectionate and considerate father. He prayed for his children continually that they might be forgiven for anything which they might have done wrongfully. How typical of a parent whose love goes out to each child regardless of their actions in life. His loss in sorrow was, perhaps, greater than all his property loss.

It is reported that a man who had lost all he had came home and buried his face in his hands and began to weep. His little four year old was very much disturbed and asked why his tears. And he said, "Darling, we have lost everything we have. The home, the business; all is lost. We are ruined." The little girl threw her arms about her daddy's neck and said, "No, daddy. You haven't lost everything. You have Mama and me yet." But this was not so with Job, (. . . he still had his companion). He had lost all seven sons and three daughters. I don't know how they might have buried them, whether all in one grave or separately. But if they used caskets as is common now, then there would have been ten! Think of that! Sorrow upon sorrow was added to Job! The storm had swept his home clean of every child! His grief was, no doubt, beyond words. This was the unspeakable test of sorrow!

Let us look at God's true plan for the homes... I am glad to report to you that God still has great, true, tender hearted men. And by their sides he places wonderful, affectionate sweetheart wives. They are to be sweethearts for life! Each is to care for, assist and love the other. He knits these hearts together

in a love akin to the divine! Then out of these closely bound lives a little child is born. It too, is enthralled in the glorious meshes of cords that bind and hold. What an intertwining of souls. Father! Mother! Baby! The days which so swiftly pass tend to increase and deepen these sacred ties. Then in some mysterious way, unknown and misunderstood by the parents, the angel of death tears all these heart strings to tatters. The child is dead! A tragedy, we say!

Only those parents who have borne a child in prenatal bliss and have dreamed the sweet dreams of a darling baby and only those whose hungry arms have held a precious child and lost, can know the unspeakable anguish of such a sorrow. I believe, if we could have looked upon Job's face in this his deepest sorrow, we would have seen one pale with grief. It would have told something of his sorrow and test! Yet Job had an anchor that held in sorrow's storm. When there was no star in sight, and hope was taken from his blackened sky, and his breath was heavy with his heartache, it was a terrific test of sorrow, yet Job said: "the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." Job 1:21-22.

THE FOURTH TEST WAS PHYSICAL AFFLICTION. Job was smitten with boils from the sole of his feet to the crown of his head. Just think of having boils in the form of carbuncles all over one's body. Job was so miserable that he just sat down among the ashes and scraped himself with a potsherd. He was miserable all over. No place on his body was left unaffected. It was sore all over. But let us not forget God has a way of bringing his saints through the tests of life. Some of life's

hardest learned lessons come through physical affliction. When we are strong, what care we how the storms howl against our cabin door? What do we care if the wolves snarl about the place? So long as we are strong and able we can take care of ourselves. Men glory in the storms that come as long as they are able-bodied. But it is a different scene when one is laid low in sickness; when one is called upon to face death.

When one's health is gone, and the storms of adversity howl at our window and the wolf of hunger snarls at our door -- then comes a test. How do we muster courage then? These are the times which try men's souls to see of what metal they are made! Job was again faithful in this situation of physical affliction. He still looked to God.

THE FIFTH TEST OF JOB WAS THE FAILURE OF HIS COMPANION TO SUPPORT HIM. It could have been that this test was one of his bitterest ones! She proved untrue in the moment when he needed her most. If ever he needed a precious, tender, sympathizing companion, it was now. But she had failed him in the hour of his deepest need. Not only this, but it seems to me she became cruel and harsh. She must have been resentful that God allowed all this to happen to her Job. Perhaps she had thought she "had it made" for life... but this was not the case. She too, was called to endure the scorns and criticisms of being demoted from wealth to poverty. This was more than she was prepared to accept. So she said to Job: "Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die." Job 2:9. Now comes the bitter truth for Job. His companion was no longer willing to go the way of the Lord. As long as that way was lined with riches and honor,

she gladly trod along with Job, but no longer was this the case. She just figured it was all over for Job. He had seen his good days and now the bitter end was in sight. So as far as she was concerned, she was willing to go down cursing God for it all! Can you imagine what that conversation would have been if Job had responded according to her folly? What if he had taken her advice? Would the end of Job have been different than what it is reported to have been? Indeed so; we might never have had it recorded for our benefit! How could she have said such things?

And here again, we see how important it is for one companion to hold steady when the other is storm-tossed. Upon reflection Mrs. Job may have been sorry that she ever uttered such a foolish thing. But Job took the way of faith; he dropped anchor, so to speak. He was abiding time till the passing of the storm. Job held steady. How wonderful! So in every home when a companion has come to some very exasperating situation it is very great for the other to be the anchor; to remain sweet, tender and kind. How gracious for a husband or wife to be the soul of consideration; to do far more than his or her share in lifting the load at such times; to throw the oil of quietness on the troubled waves.

The home is a very important place where a person can show real genuineness of salvation, love and character when one companion is storm tossed and distressed. To be never failing in tenderness is the mark of real sanctification. "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Matt. 5:9.

So Job's reply to her statement was this: "But he said unto her, Thou speakest

as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips." Job 2:10.

Our Father, we are so thankful that the grace of God is sufficient for all our needs. It proved to be sufficient for Job. You took him through and we believe that the power of God is the same today as ever. Bless every listener as they may need for we ask it in Jesus name. Amen.

Be sure to keep tuned as we continue with the seven tests of Job. Until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying God bless and keep you always and a very cheerful goodbye!

TIMELY ADVICE

If you are impatient, sit down quietly and talk with JOB.

If you are just a little strong-headed, go and see MOSES.

If you are getting weak-kneed, take a good look at ELIJAH.

If there is no song in your heart, listen to DAVID.

If you are a policy-man, read DANIEL.

If you are getting sordid, spend awhile with ISAIAH.

If you feel chilly, get the BELOVED DISCIPLE to put his arms around you.

If your faith is below par, read PAUL.

If you are losing sight of the future climb up the stairs of REVELATION and get a glimpse of the KING OF KINGS!

Testimonies

From Ohio: "Dear Bro. Murphey... My name is Melissa A. Odom. I don't believe I have ever seen you before, but that is not important. The fact that we're both brother and sister in the Lord is. I'd appreciate being put on your mailing list for The Mission Trail. I obtained a copy of the Aug. 20th, 1970 publication at a Bible School sponsored by Evening Light Church of God. Although this was a late publication the truths contained therein are good till time shall end. I thank the Lord for your broadcast, brother. I'm only 15 and I don't have a lot of money, but I feel that I should help out in some way. Lord willing, in my next letter there will be a money order... Pray for me and I will be doing likewise for your family."

--Melissa A. Odom

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From Kansas: "It has been a long time since I have written. On Feb. 24 my wife Hazel passed away. I know she is in the place Christ went to prepare for they that love the Lord. That helps to console one when their loved one has departed. Thank God for the 53 years He gave us of sharing life together. No one knows (besides the Lord) what it is until it comes. Hazel was part of my life. I enjoy your message on Job. It helps me in a way to imagine his sorrow. Yet I can not know, only imagine for he lost everything except his faith and love of God and through that he won the victory over all."

--J. E. Estopy

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From N. Car.: "I am still on the battle field for my Lord. I'm not tired yet. I intend to continue until the end. Time surely passes quickly. Today 2 years ago Sis. Bowers went home to be with the Lord. It doesn't seem like 2 years to me. We surely miss her."

--Sis. C. B. Nelson

From Oregon: "Where did summer go? We had so little it seems...It seemed such a short time ago I was looking for little shoots of green to tell me spring was on the way and now the leaves are drifting down and fall is on its way... So is our life, how brief it seems when we look back from whence we came. How did time get away so fast? What a short time ago my hair was a pretty nut brown and now I look in my mirror at a silver haired lady with a network of wrinkles. Can this be me? Such a short time my face was smooth and beamed with youth and vigor was in my step. Yes, I must confess I am in the senior citizen class, but we can grow old gracefully and life can be beautiful. ... Now I realize I am getting nearer to the day when I will stand in the presence of the mighty God and I do so want to have something good to show out of this brief life I have lived on this earth. So I pray and strive to be able to give a good account of my life... How wonderful are our dear old saints. How brave and faithful they are, a monument of righteousness. I'll never forget Bro. Ostis Jr. Wilson's mother. How wonderful she was to us young folks. Her main words to me were, 'Grace, be of good courage.' All the young people loved her..." --Sis. Grace Jones

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"Sing, O ye heavens; for the Lord hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel." --Isaiah 44:23.

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From Ind.: "The Mission Trail provides an encouragement to those like Ione and myself who are isolated and have no where to worship. However, we are not isolated from the love of God." --Betty Mae Baker

From Calif.: "The Lord is blessing us here in Orland. We have gained some new brothers and sisters in the Lord. Our prayer is that God will set us all on fire so he can manifest his power through his children here on earth. Salvation is the most precious gift God has given to man. May our Lord awaken sinners to their need of Jesus before it is too late to pray." --Sis. Letha Reece

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From Okla.: "This morning finds me encouraged in the Lord with a determination to go all the way. I really don't know how people do without the Lord. I want to always put him first in my life. I desire to live by all the Word of God and am endeavoring to do so to all I know and understand. This world has no charm for me. I just want more of the love of God and know better how to please Him. I want to help others to carry a burden for the lost. It is so sad to see people go not knowing whether they made it or not. Oh how can people take such a chance by putting off til some other time? I have been by the bedside of some I didn't know whether they made it or not. I still have 7 children. I desire the Lord to save them whatever the cost may be..."

--Bro. Leonard & Sis. Grace Roberts

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From Okla.: "Praise God, I am still saved and sanctified, living for Lord... I am still going by God's help... God bless you in your good work for Lord and souls... keep praying for me."

--Sis. Della Harrison

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From Kansas: "I've been thinking about how important it is to keep encouraged. How good it is that God does keep us encouraged to just keep pressing on. But this is a pressing way... and the way of the old rugged cross leads home. We have surely had a good summer."

--Sis. Mamie Norcutt

From Okla.: "I have been truly concerned and burdened for our children and grandchildren that will not yield to God. The enemy seems to have them bound. It is our desire that God break that binding power and set the captive souls free. Jeremiah 8:20 comes to my mind: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." May God continue to deal with their hearts."

--Sis. Theresa Gaines

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From Okla.: "I'm not well in body. I started taking sick at Boley...but the Lord soon came to my rescue and I'm better now but still weak. I went to prayer meeting last night thinking I would feel better, still I'm not very strong. Remember me both soul and body. If my time is not out He'll let me stay a while longer. I hope my days are lengthened to continue to help save this world. That is my mission to support the work of the Lord and give out literature as I pass along. I'm ready when the Lord calls me. I'm not a bit uneasy. Give all the saints my love. This is all for the time being."

--Sis. Lizzie B. Jordan

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From Wash.: "Greetings to you folks today in Jesus name. We thank and praise him this morning for life and strength he gives us each day to serve him. We do thank him for his love to us and we love him with all our heart and try to please him in all we do and say. We and family are quite well at present,..."

--Sister Violet Thomas

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From Miss.: "God blesses us in so many ways. Our neighbors are nice to us. Two merchants bring us groceries. People want to take me up in town when I want to go. Two ladies go to the bank for me when they go. God blesses us about the weather..."

--Sis. Dorothy Bridges

From La.: "We are both encouraged to live for the Lord, and to endeavor to draw close to him. We are thankful for the Lord's many blessings to us. We're thankful too, for the good camp meetings we were able to attend. Pray for us."

--Ferlin & Kathy Palmer

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From S. Car.: "Please pray that I will be just what God will have me be. I am in the race for my soul, hoping to win a home in heaven. I love that song, "Jesus knows". Yes he knows all about it...Please pray for my throat. I have something wrong with it and I don't know but God knows. I believe His word. He said if we ask anything in Jesus' name and believe we would receive it and I sure believe all His promises."

--Sis. Lurline Scott

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From La.: "I have been calling this rash on my body (all over me) allergy. It has run into Psoriasis, a very rare kind...the God we serve can heal all manner of things. I need a touch of the Master's hand and I will be well. I had a heavy head of hair, but it is almost all gone. This is sure a strong thing that has happened to me. I itch so much it makes me so nervous. I know God can heal me..."

--Sis. Alex C. Johnson

Faith

Faith is a living power from heaven
Which grasps the promise God has given!
A trust that cannot be o'er thrown,
Securely fixed on Christ alone.

Faith finds in Christ whate'er we need
To save and strengthen, guide and feed;
Strong in His grace it joys to share
His cross, in hope His crown to wear.

Faith to the conscience whispers peace,
And bids the mourner's sighing cease;
By faith the children's right we claim,
And call upon our Father's name.

Faith feels the Spirit's kindling breath
In love and hope that conquer death;
Faith brings us to delight in God,
And blesses e'en His smiting rod.

—Selected

at press time

we understand:

Congratulations to Elois Eck and Mark Spinks who have their wedding date set for Sept. 15. We wish them much happiness and many blessings of the Lord.

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Jesse Ray is recovering at home from a fracture to his pelvis sustained when a car on which he was working fell on him Sept. 10. He and Beverly's mailing address: 1323 W. Washington, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

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Bro. & Sis. S. E. Abbott have made a change in their address and now live in Ariz. Those who wish to write them should address their mail: Bro. & Sis. S. E. Abbott, 203 Forest Drive, Apt. 4, Payson, Arizona 85541.

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Our Oklahoma summer has not been so hot this year. Not many days did the temperature reach 100 degrees.

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The saints of Guthrie are expecting Bro. Ostis Wilson and Sis. Evelyn to be with them in meeting beginning Sept. 16. We trust the Lord will richly bless.

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Frances and I were happy to be with the saints of Prattsville, Ark., on Sunday Aug. 26. We were especially thankful that Bro. and Sis. Loftis were able to be in service that day.

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CORRECTION: In the September issue the second test for Job was incorrectly listed on page three as "prosperity". It should have read as was correctly given on the broadcast, "The Second Test for Job was Adversity"!

THE BUSY FARMER

Have you heard about the farmer
Working many hours a day
Milking cows and feeding turkeys,
Plowing fields and making hay?
And this farmer was so busy
That for God he had no time;
Tho' he had such great possessions,
To the Lord gave not a dime.
He spent all his time and money
Gaining wealth and buying lands,
And a lovely house was builded
With the labor of his hands.
Time went on until the farmer
With his goods was satisfied;
Plans were made for his retirement,
But alas, the farmer died!
Now his body lies a molding
Down below the clay and sod;
And his soul is lost forever
For his hope was not in God.
Now another man is working
All those acres that he tilled;
Other people now are living
In the house which he did build
Once again we are reminded,
Of the scriptures, for you see,
We can't take our riches with us;
Oh, then WHOSE shall these things be?
Oh, my friend, do heed the warning,
And while on this earth you trod,
Take the time to live for Jesus;
Be prepared to meet your God.

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We are glad to be doing "business for God"! He is looking for faithfulness in each servant and some day we will be called to give account of our talents. Many thanks to all who help us keep the broadcast on the air and meet expenses!



THE MISSION TRAIL, originating in Guthrie, Okla., is broadcast by radio and published in printed form by Willie Murphey with the help of others. Its principal support comes from the free will contributions of its listeners and readers. Those who are led by the Lord to assist may do so by sending their offering to:

THE MISSION TRAIL, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044

For some it will come true: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20. Let us hasten with the message which Jesus gave: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."



Broadcast Schedule

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