

YOUR PROBLEM HAS A PURPOSE

Today, there is nobody in this world without a problem. Everyone's got a problem. First, problems are inevitable in our lives and you can never avoid. Second, the problems are unpredictable. We can never predict when we will fall sick or when the stock market is going to fall. Even nobody predicted this corona virus. Third, problems are of different kinds. We all don't have the same problem or even an individual does not have the same problem for a long time. Fourth and most importantly, all our problems have a purpose.

All our problems in our life have a purpose. It teaches us something and it changes our lives. If you have a problem, don't be complaining but look at what's the purpose God has in your life.

A man had many problems in his life and the biggest problem of them all was that he had a problem of counting all his problems. The actual blessing in our life is to count our blessings but today, people keep counting their problems, measuring their problems. Do not look at the problems, and keep grumbling and run away.

But how can we use them?

Story:

A drunkard had two sons. Elder son became a drunkard like him and was in the streets. But the younger son was sober and he never became addicted to alcohol. Rather he studied hard, worked hard and he became a big shot, a businessman. One day, when the elder son who became a drunkard, when asked why he had become like this, said: "My father was a drunkard." On the other hand, when the younger son who had become a businessman in life, was asked how he became like this, and he answered "because my father was a drunkard, I didn't want to become like him. So I struggled hard to reach this position."

Are we trying to give reasons? Are we blaming others or other things –sickness, husband or wife or children, education - for the problems we face?

How are we using our problems in life?

Three things to look into:

- a) What does the enemy want to do in our lives through our problems?
- b) What do we want to do amidst our problems?
- c) What does God want to do in our lives through our problems?

We all know the story of Job. When you read **Job chapter 1**, we can see how good and blessed Job's life was. How much of abundance he had, how wealthy he was and how he was blessed and how his family was blessed. But he was always faithful to God. The devil gets into the scene.

1. DEVIL WANTS TO USE OUR PROBLEMS TO DESTROY US

Job 1:8-11:

8 - Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

9 - "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied.

10 - "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.

11 - But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

The devil goes around the world but it was the Lord who shows Job to him and He proudly speaks about the faithfulness of Job that he is an excellent man, he will not waver in his faith, he will stand, and he will not grumble, and challenged the enemy to test Job. Devil did not choose Job but it was the Lord who showed Job to the devil, permitting the enemy to test job.

Job 1:13-19:

13 - One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house,

14 - a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby,

15 - and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

16 - While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

17 - While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

18 - While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house,

19 - when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

The enemy went and destroyed everything Job had – all his farmlands were burnt, cattle were killed and were taken away, the house fell over and killed all his children. Job lost everything and yet he did not sin against God. The devil does his best to destroy. The role of the devil bringing this problem into your life is to destroy your life. When the devil tries to destroy your life, you need to be alert and do not allow him to destroy your life, your family, your health etc.

2. WHAT DOES A MAN DO WHEN HE ENCOUNTERS PROBLEMS?

What do we do? We want to either avoid it or run away from it. You cannot keep running away from your problems. The only solution, someone with a problem knows, is to move away from it – my marriage has a problem, so I will end this marriage; I have a problem with my job, so I will shift to another job; my life is not good, so I will end it. People want to avoid problems, quit and run away. When you run away from your problems, your problems run faster than you and catch up with you; no matter where you go, your problems are faster.

Two kinds of mindsets are there in life:

- Fixed Mindset
- Growth Mindset

The Fixed mindset is always fixed on the problems, and it always focuses on the negative area. That's how our brain has been tuned. We always focus on negativity.

But, the Growth mindset considers every problem to be a project – problems have to be considered as having a project right now and find ways to overcome or finish the project. So look at problems as projects. Every new problem is a new project. See how you can handle it for you cannot run away from your problems. You need to change your mindset.

Job 2:7

7 - So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head.

Seeing the misery of Job, his wife asked him to quit, curse the Lord and give up his life (**Job 2:9**). In **Job 3**, Job cursed the day of his birth, said what he feared had come through and started lamenting. Even when we share our problems with others, they advise us to quit and run away. The more we quit and run, problems are going to catch up with us faster.

Story – Hungry Pythons:

There were a group of men who were serving in the Brazilian forest. The forest was known for pythons; anywhere they see, they will see a python. And they were told not to run away when they see a python, for in the forest, the python will be faster than men and it will catch them, swallow them, strangle, choke and kill them. So they were advised that when they see a python they need to lie down straight and flat with their feet closed and stiff, and hands on the side. And when the python tries to dig its head under the body, since it will not be able to find a place, the python will try to swallow the body from the feet and even when it swallows the body, you will not experience pain. You still need to keep quiet while it's trying to swallow you and not try to run away. Just be inside its mouth and when it starts to swallow you and comes to the knee, take a knife, put it into the python's mouth and cut it off. Python gets killed. You learn to kill the python when you are inside the python. But when you try to run away, it runs faster than you and kills you. We need to learn to be inside the problem, live within the problem, not outside the problem, live with the problem and overcome it. Face the problems.

The devil uses all our problems to destroy us, man wants to avoid problems. But,

3. THE LORD USES THESE PROBLEMS TO FULFIL HIS PURPOSE IN OUR LIFE.

James 1:1 - 4:

- 1 - James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.
- 2 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,
- 3 - because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.
- 4 - Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James says to consider it pure joy. There are five ways God uses our problems in our life to fulfill His purpose.

a) God Uses Problems To Direct Us:

Sometimes we are stuck in a place and don't know where to go or we are in the wrong place. God allows these problems to move us from one place to another. Many a time, we settle in life and become comfortable. God's plan and purpose cannot be fulfilled in comfort zones. You have to come out, step out. God allows these problems, which the devil brings, to direct us to the right door. This problem is moving us to the right door.

b) God Uses Problems To Strengthen Us:

We are like tea bags – unless we are put in the hot water, the tea does not come. The more it's dipped, the stronger is the tea. Our faith is tested like this, the more we are tested. Job says in **23:10**, that he was tested and he came forth as pure gold. Strengthened in faith. Be encouraged that you are going to come out as pure gold. He is going to make us strong.

c) God Uses Problems To Correct Us:

Sometimes we are away from the Lord, or we don't have faith, or we have committed a sin. God allows these things to bring us back to Him. David writes like this in **Psalm 119:71**,
71 - It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.

Problems turn our attention towards the Lord. God uses problems in our lives to correct us. When we have a doubt or question – Did God bring these problems in my life? Did God bring this sickness? Understand that God is not bad. In the life of Job, the devil goes to test Job and God challenges the devil to test Him. Because of the faith He had on His child, He allowed this test to Job. God allows these tests so that you will be elevated. It's not God who brings problems into people's life. It's not God who creates problems. He does not do that. God does not initiate problems, the devil does. But God uses them to bless us.

d) God Uses Problems To Protect Us:

In the life of Joseph, he was put in the pit to protect his life, he was sold as a slave to protect his life, and he was put in prison, to protect his life. And then God blessed him saying, "whatever bad, people intended for, I have turned it into good." All these while, as he was as a slave, God protected him so that his entire family could be protected.

e) God Uses Problems To Perfect Us:

Romans 5:3-4:

3 - Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;

4 - perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Problems perfect us - Patience, perseverance, hope and faith. Something which is imperfect in our lives, which is lacking in our lives. God allows all of these problems to perfect us.

God uses problems to direct us, strengthen us, correct us, protect us and perfect us. Devil uses problems to destroy us, man wants to avoid problems but God wants to use the same problems to fulfill His purpose.

The Lord was about to bless Job, but Job did not know about it. Even before He knew or received God's double-fold blessings, he writes so in **Job 42:1 and 2**,

1 - Then Job replied to the Lord:

2 - "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted."

He believed that God can do all things and no purpose of His, will be thwarted – be it famine or death, nothing can thwart God's plan.

Be encouraged and believe - the Lord has a purpose. Your problem has a purpose. Whatever you are going through in life has a purpose. The devil brings problems to destroy us and we try to avoid. But God

uses every problem the devil brings in our lives to bless, to fulfill, to perfect and to protect, and none of His plans will be thwarted.

Story:

A guy called Brian, was getting ready to go to work, went to his car and his car tyre was flat. So he went back to his house, took the phone to make a call but the connection wires were all in water as it was raining heavily. By the time he called and asked his friend for help, he had an electric shock and he fell down. With all the pain, he came down to see his car and the car was stolen. The good thing was, the car did not have much fuel so the guy who stole it had left the car behind. So he walked down to the car, took it and put it in the garage. With all this, he went to the office, and as he was climbing the stairs, he fell down and broke his leg. When they took him to the hospital, the hospital door hit his fingers and was injured. Finally, after all the first aid and medical care, he came home and sat on a chair, and the chair broke. His friends said you are having a very bad day and God is angry with you and He is trying to mess you. But this man said God is not trying to mess with me. The devil is trying to kill me from the morning and he is constantly missing me, for God is making sure that I am missing what the devil is throwing against me. That's the attitude.

CONCLUSION:

Today, we are concerned about the problems that we are facing. Have we ever thought about the problems which the Lord had already taken care of? The ones which we did not encounter at all, the ones which we did not see in our lives at all, the accidents and sickness which never came into our lives. Your attitude matters. Don't quit, don't run away. Learn to overcome the problem, learn to live with the problem; for your problem has a purpose, though it's painful, though it's a big struggle, it truly has a purpose. And God will change your problem into a miracle.