

LEMONADE: MAKING THE BEST OF BAD SITUATIONS

Peace in a Bad Situation, John 16:33

This is a Bad Situation

John 16:33 (KJV) 33 *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

- Make no mistake about it we're in a bad situation
- The world is fighting a disease it can't see
- The number contracting the coronavirus seems to double every few days
- The fear of the virus has caused shortages of necessary supplies and food
- The health systems and medical staffs of USA and around the world are being stretched to the limits
- Many of us are working from home, but there are some who were just "sent home" with no work to do; they were furloughed, or laid off with no severance
- We're on the brink of a recession, maybe even a depression
- But in the midst of all of this Jesus says, **John 16:33 (KJV) 33** *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*
- The world is *filled* with trouble, so if it's not the coronavirus, lay-offs, and a looming recession, it will be something else
- But even with all the trials and tribulations of this world we can still have peace
- Jesus says *in Him* we have peace
- Peace is not the *absence* of trials and tribulations, it's living in the *presence* of Jesus
- Jesus is saying in Him you and I can have not just any peace, but *overcoming* peace
- Because Jesus has overcome the world, so can we
- We can have the *peace of God*
- The *peace of God* means to be bound, joined or woven together
- When you have the *peace of God*, things still happen, but they no longer pull you every direction, because you have the peace of God
- To experience the overcoming peace *of God* we must first have peace *with God* **Romans 5:1 (KJV)** *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*
- Peace *with* God means that we have been reconciled with Him
- **Question:** How do we maintain *overcoming* peace in bad situations?

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Focus on God, Not Your Situation

2 Chronicles 20:12 (KJV) O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.

- King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah were facing an attack from a coalition of three enemy nations
- Jehoshaphat gathered the people of Judah together to fast and pray
 - He acknowledged to God that they were:
 - *Powerless* – He had power but not enough to fight 3 armies
 - *We don't know what to do* – God we have no answers
 - *But our eyes are on You*
 - Although they didn't know what to do, their eyes stayed focused on God
- In the midst of all that happening all around us, what we focus on is of critical importance
- We must be like Jehoshaphat and admit we're powerless against this pandemic, we don't know what to do, but our eyes are on you

Maintain Your Joy

James 1:2 (KJV) 2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

- The attitude you need to maintain right now is joy
- How can we be joyful when we are facing trials like sickness, disease, economic crisis, layoffs, personal financial problems, etc.?
- Joy is not the first thing that comes to mind face trials
- We want to avoid and insulate ourselves from trials
- We think that as soon as trials come our way God should immediately take them away
- To have joy in the midst of trials, we must change our thinking
- We must count it all joy
- The word "count" here means "to evaluate"
- We must evaluate our trials in the light of what God is doing for us
- *Biblical joy* is the knowledge that God is in control of your situations and He allows only that which is good for you, and will strengthen you in this life
- We have joy because of what of the outcome is going to be for our good
- We have joy because of what God is working in us
- We have joy because of how we are growing us up in the process
- Joy is a choice, just like despair, discouragement and defeat are choices
- Choose joy!

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Don't Fear

Isaiah 41:10 (KJV) 10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

- Right now, this nation is overrun with fear
- God says in **Isaiah 41:10 (KJV) 10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.**
- God says:
- Don't fear, *I Am* with you
- This is a *command* and a *promise*
 - God commands us not to fear because He promises to be with us
 - God is not with us just in the times, but He's with us all the time
Matthew 28:20 (KJV) "... and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."
- Don't be dismayed, *I Am* your God
 - Don't be worried, anxious, or give up,
- *I Am* your God
 - I Am the All Mighty, All Knowing, Ever Present God
- And Because I Am your God
- *I will strengthen you*
- *I will help you*
- *I will hold you up with the right hand of my righteousness*
 - When you feel overwhelmed and ready to give up, God will hold you up and keep you going
- This one verse is filled with *I AM's* and *I will's*
- We are not to live *by fear*, but live *by faith in God*

Be Patient

James 1:4 (KJV) 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

- When we are going through difficulties, our prayer is just for the trials to end and our problems to be over
- But many times, in trials one of the things God wants us to develop is patience
- God wants to develop a level of endurance where we can go through difficult seasons in life and it not be frustrated when things don't improve quickly
- Instead of complaining about our struggles, we should see them as opportunities for spiritual growth.

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Nothing is Too Hard for God

Jeremiah 32:17 (KJV) Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:

- It is God that made the heavens and the earth with His power and outstretched arm
- Not only did God make the heavens and the earth, He's been keeping all operating smoothly for thousands of years
- If God can make the earth, other planets, the sun and thousands of stars in the sky without them running into each other, He can surly handle what's happening on earth right now
- God will either *deliver from it* or *take you through it*, nothing is too hard for God

Remember, God is with You In and Through All of This

Daniel 3:25 (KJV) 25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

- In Daniel 3, Shadrach Meshach and Abednego were thrown into a burning fiery because they refused to bow to king Nebuchadnezzar's golden image when the music played
- The king was expecting to see three men burn in the fire
- Instead seeing *three men* burn, he saw *four men* walking around *unaffected* by the flames
- Jesus was with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fire
- The king brought them out of the fire, and he discovered that:
 - Not a hair on their head was singed
 - Their clothing did not smell like smoke
 - The fire had no power
- Just as Jesus was with the three Hebrew teenagers, He will be with you
- How do I know?
- The king saw *four* men in the fire, but when He called for them to come out, only Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out
- That means Jesus is with *you* now during this worldwide disease, food shortages, cutbacks, layoffs economic downturns, etc.