

# Bumps In The Road

*Mark 4: 35-41*

**Mar 4:35** And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, **Let us pass over unto the other side.**

**Mar 4:36** And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

**Mar 4:37** And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

**Mar 4:38** And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

**Mar 4:39** And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, **Peace, be still.** And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

**Mar 4:40** And he said unto them, **Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?**

**Mar 4:41** And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

I am convinced now that the average person who is experiencing hardships deep down within, thinks he or she is the only one. You have asked yourself over and over again, "Why me? Why do these burdens always fall on me?"

You say to yourself,

- "I'm trying to do the best I can. I am an honest person.
- I try to treat people the way I want to be treated.
- I don't bother anyone.
- I'm not a gossiper.
- I don't stick my nose into other folks' affairs.
- Why do my children seem to have all the problems.
- I know other folks who care anything about God. They don't come to church. They have no respect for the Lord and everything seems to be happy sailing for them.
- I even seem to get into trouble trying to help other folks. I have bills now because I tried to help somebody.
- I tried to rescue others, and the people I helped turned their backs on me.
- I've done the best I could to be my own man or woman. I strived to have a good name, a good reputation. Now my car has stopped running. My house always needs something fixed and it seems that my health is trying to fail.

Why do I have to go through all of these things? Is there any help for me? Is there a light at the end of the tunnel? What can I look for? What can I expect? Will I always be playing catch up?"

"I need some answers. I need God to speak to me because I'm between a rock and a hard place. I need some words of encouragement.

- After all, I'm saved. I'm born again.

- I heard folks say that when you're saved, your troubles are over, but it looks like when I met Christ my troubles started.
- I can't sleep at night. I can't stop crying.
- I need to know if there is a solution somewhere.

How can I deal with the dilemmas that I'm facing? I want it to be a brighter day ahead. I want my burdens lifted. I want to live sometime without criticism and negative talk. I want to live without having to look behind my back. I want to live sometime without having to wonder where I'm going to get my next meal. Father, talk to me and help me out here. I need to know what to expect next."

The pastor receives phone calls and e-mails daily with prayer requests from folks asking "Pastor, why me? Tell me why I'm going through the stuff I'm going through?"

First, suffering was promised. It is not something that just happens to you. Christ promised suffering. First Peter 4:12 says,

**1Pe 4:12 Beloved, [In other words, saved folks, born again people of God], think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:**

Don't get upset when these things happen. Peter was saying, "Don't think this is something that is just happening to you. It's happening to others as well."

Notice the next verse. He says, "*But rejoice.*"

**1Pe 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.**

Now whenever you see the prefix re-, it means "to do again." It means before you went through this stuff, you had joy. Before you had dark days and lonely nights; before the doctor gave you bad news, you had joy. Since you have gone through the trials, and you are in them now, re-do what you had been doing—go back and rejoice.

Now, you can't re-do what you have never done. When Mama would ask if we wanted some molasses, we would say, "Mama, how can we ask for mo-lasses when we've had no-lasses?"

How can you rejoice when you have never had any joy?

If you are saved, you have experienced joy. Joy does not mean happiness. Joy is a state of being. Joy is something that you are. It is not something you are trying to do. Joy has nothing to do with the kind of instruments being played, the song that is being sung or how well you can dance. Joy has nothing to do with any of that. Joy is who you are and whom you possess. If you have Jesus, you have joy.

In Matthew 10:35-36 Jesus said,

**Mat 10:35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter**

**against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.**

**Mat 10:36** **And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.**

He wanted us to know that there will be some suffering at home. We must bear in mind that there are things that we will go through at home.

We will also have some spiritual opposition. Jesus says in Matthew 5:11,

**Mat 5:11** **Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you,**

That means that they are going to do all they can to destroy us spiritually. Satan does not come after us with a fist, knife or gun.

**Eph 6:12** **For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**

In other words, we can be in a room by ourselves and have a war going on. We can be in a room by ourselves, become upset and tell ourselves, "I don't like you." Satan will have us boxing with ourselves.

We will also experience personal accusations. Matthew 5:11 also says,

**Mat 5:11** **Blessed are ye, when men shall ... persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.**

Have you ever wondered how negative rumors get out so easily? It is because that's what folks want to hear. Most folks have so many skeletons in their closets that they don't want to be lone rangers so when they hear negative things about you, they spread them. They want you to look bad to make them look good. But, as I often say, "Watch your fingers because if you point one at me, you have three more pointing back at you, and a thumb trying to decide which way to go."

Not only are we promised spiritual opposition and personal accusation, but we will experience physical persecutions also. Do you remember Cain and Abel? Abel bothered no one; he was a law-abiding citizen, and he was murdered by his own brother.

John the Baptist bothered no one, but he was beheaded for telling the truth. You do not have to do wrong for folks to try to destroy you. People will destroy you if they get a chance.

Why do we have to go through all of this? If there is a promise of suffering, there must be a purpose. God would not let us suffer if He did not have a purpose.

Suffering chastens us. Hebrew 12:7 says,

**Heb 12:7** **If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?**

When we go through suffering, God is correcting us. We may not be as good as we think we are. According to our scale we are good, but when we stand beside the Lord we are as filthy rags. The Lord is not trying to get us to look like someone else. He wants us to look like Him. Since we are to look like Him, He takes us through some things.

Suffering is a cleanser. Malachi 3:3 says,

**Mal 3:3 And he shall sit *as* a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.**

Suffering takes things out of our lives that should not be there. It purifies us. When we walk upright, we can really advertise God, but if we are doing wrong most of the time, we make God look bad. So, suffering chastens and cleanses us.

Suffering also captures our attention. Philippians 3:10 says,

**Php 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;**

We don't know Christ like we think we know Him until we have gone through some things. A lot of us say we can make it, but when we start going through some stuff, we are ready to throw in the towel. Have you seen people who you thought were strong until trouble showed up? That's when they crawled into a room, locked the door and said they didn't want to be bothered.

The Bible says that we are going to suffer. If we know we are going to suffer, then why panic when trials show up?

I discovered that when we are going through trials, God gives us breathing room. He doesn't put it all on us at once. He gives us a little, then lets us catch our breath. Then, He takes us through a little more and lets us catch our breath. Then, He takes us through a little more. When we look back, we say to ourselves, "I don't know how I made it through." The reason you don't know is because it wasn't you who brought you through. The Lord knew what He was going to take you through, but you didn't know.

God will not throw everything on us at once because if He did, we would throw in the towel. When the children of Israel were ready to leave Egypt, God told Moses to lead them out.

- They left, but He didn't tell them that they were going to run into bitter water.
- He didn't tell them that they were going to get into the wilderness and run out of food.
- He didn't tell them that the Red Sea was waiting for them.

He simply said, "Leave." If they had known that they were going to experience those things, they would have stayed in Egypt to die. God allowed them to run into a little at a time. Every time they ran into something, God was there to meet their needs.

When they ran into bitter water, they said, "Oh my God, what are we going to do now? We have no water to drink." God told Moses that the water was bitter and they could not drink it. He said, "There is

a tree lying near the water, cut it down. Let the tree fall in the water to make it sweet" (Exodus 15:25). They drank the water and kept going.

After they drank the water, they were hungry. There was no food to eat. God told Moses to get them up early the next morning because He was going to let manna fall from heaven while they slept. He told them to store only enough for one day because the next day there would be more. Instead of getting bread for one day, some of them got enough bread for many days. The bread spoiled and they died.

Whenever they disobeyed God, He let something happen. For example, He let them walk into snake patches. When the snakes started biting, Moses asked, "What shall we do?" God told him to make a snake, put it on a pole and tell the people that everyone who looked at the snake would live.

Have you ever noticed that God always talks to the leader? He did not talk to just anyone in the camp. There were 600,000 Israelites, but He only spoke to one. He said, "Moses, let me tell you what you do. When you get to the Red Sea, stretch out your rod." And when Moses stretched out the rod, the Red Sea backed up and they all walked across on dry ground.

Let's look back at our text.

**Mar 4:35** And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, **Let us pass over unto the other side.**

The Bible says that Jesus got into the boat and invited the disciples to go with him to the other side of the lake of Galilee. The disciples obeyed the Lord, got into the boat and headed to the other side with Jesus. Notice that Jesus didn't say, "Let's pass *under*", but rather, "Let's pass *over* to the other side." If He had said, "Let's pass under," you would expect them to have sunk. They were going over. They had a sense of direction because they were following Jesus.

We need to know where we are going. If we are traveling, we need to have a sense of destination. I hope every one of us is on our way to heaven. However, we need to know that if we are going to heaven, we cannot get there without Christ. We can find other gods, but they will not get us to heaven. There is only one way and one person who can get us there, and that is Jesus, the Son of the Living God.

**Mar 4:38** And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

The disciples were on their way to the other side, and our text says Jesus lay down and went to sleep. Can you imagine Jesus, the Son of God sleeping?

We need to know what He had gone through during the course of that day. Jesus had taught a course on seed sowing: Some fell on stony ground, some fell by the wayside, some fell in thorns and thistles that choked them and some fell on good ground. He also had to deal with His mother and brothers wanting to take Him home because they thought He had lost his mind. Jesus had experienced a long day. When he got into the ship, He lay down and went to sleep. No matter who you are, eventually you are going to get tired. It doesn't matter how strong you are, eventually you will need rest. If you do not rest, you will come apart.

While Jesus was sleeping, a storm came. Storms could show up at any time on the lake of Galilee. The lake was eight miles long and eight miles wide. It was shaped like a saucer. When the hot air from the lake would rise, the cold air from the mountain and hills would come down. This meant they could leave home when the sun was shining, but before they could get to the other side, they could be caught in a storm. The storms would happen so suddenly that sometimes they would not be prepared. Have you ever been in something like that? When you left home, things were well, but before you got where you were going, you were in a storm.

Some of us have met someone who told us that they loved us. They told us they wanted to be with us for the rest of our lives, but after three months, they had charged up all of our credit cards and run off with our car. We started at the altar trying to do what God wanted us to do, but ended up in a storm.

Storms will happen suddenly. They can come without warning. Friday was an example of this. I showed up to work at 5am just like every other day. I had very little on my mind until a co-worker came over to my work station and told me that there was an active shooter at Santa Fe High School. A lot of folks left home that morning with not a worry in the world, but that evening their entire lives were changed. It does not take long for us to end up going through something. We ask ourselves, "Why me? Why do I have to go through the things I'm going through?"

Did you know that whatever you are going through, the Lord knows it? The Bible says Jesus was on the ship with the disciples. If you are saved, He is on board. Don't think that something is happening that the Lord does not know about. He is on board.

The storm came and the disciples panicked. It is not a time to panic when trouble shows up. It is shocking to me to see saved folks running scared. The God we serve has enough power to keep the earth revolving on its axis. The God we serve can hold the sun ninety-three million miles in the air. The God we serve can keep the stars twinkling in their silver sockets, but some people are afraid to fly because they think He can't hold an airplane in the air. The God we serve is always in control. Don't ever throw in the towel with God. Don't put your trust in a pilot or an airplane. Put it in the God of the universe.

There is a story of a little girl who was playing jacks in the middle of a ship. A voice on the intercom said, "Ladies and gentlemen, we need everyone to go to your rooms and brace yourselves because we're in a storm. Everyone was running, picking up their containers, trying to prepare for the storm. They were locking the doors and putting on their life jackets, but this little girl remained on the floor playing jacks. Someone asked her, "Young lady, didn't you hear them say that we're in a storm?" She said, "Yes, I heard it." She continued to shoot marbles. They asked, "Aren't you going to get somewhere and protect yourself?" She said, "No." She kept shooting marbles. A man came back and said, "Baby, why aren't you trying to hide yourself?" She said, "My daddy is the captain of the ship. My daddy knows that I'm on board. My daddy isn't going to let anything happen to his child." I have the same spirit that the little girl had. If you know who you are and whose you are, then you know your Daddy is on board. Your Daddy will not let anything happen to His child. Even in the midst of a storm, put your trust in a God who can deliver you through any situation.

Let's go back to the ship where Jesus was sleeping. Can you picture the Savior sleeping? Jesus was saying, "When your storm shows up, go to sleep. When you're going through things, go ahead and rest." You're thinking, "I'm going through all this and Jesus is telling me to go to sleep?" Yes, there is something within that holds a rein. There is something on the inside that banishes pain. Sometimes we have to encourage ourselves. Don't walk around moping, talking about how you're going through so much. Some of us want other folks to know we're going through stuff. When we encourage ourselves, we get up saying, "I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus." If we stop singing the blues, we will stop feeling the blues. I have visited folks who were going through trials and they were sitting in

the house with the lights dimmed, listening to some sad old country song. You know, the one where some singer with a bad accent, kinda like mine, is whining because his wife left because there wasn't enough whiskey and his cat got hit by a train or something. Point is, don't listen to sad music. Don't listen to things that depress you. You have to say, "I'm in a storm, but the God I serve is able to deliver me."

**Mar 4:38** And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

When we are going through things, we don't think right. We also must be careful what we say because we don't always know how to say the right thing. The disciples woke Jesus and said, "Master." That was the wrong thing to say because the word master means "teacher." They did not need a teacher in the storm, they needed a deliverer. They were not going to class. They needed someone to get them out of the storm.

Have you ever wondered if God really cared about your situation?

- "Lord, the little stuff I'm going through is so trivial.
- I have a son that's clowning on me. I hate to even bother You with that.
- I have a daughter who won't act right. Lord, I just hate to bother You.
- My husband won't come home. Lord, I just hate bother You.
- My wife is acting crazy. Lord, I hate to bother You."

Guy's please understand this. If it is a concern of yours, then it is a concern of God's. He does care. He really, really honest to goodness cares. He cares about your well-being.

**Rom 8:31** What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

**Rom 8:32** He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

**Rom 8:38** For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

**Rom 8:39** Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The disciples were scared to death and they said to Jesus, "We're about to die up here, don't you even care?"

**Mar 4:40** And he said unto them, **Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?**

Jesus answered the disciples saying, "Where is your faith?" He's saying to us, "I see your Bible, but where is your faith? I see you have your family with you, but where is your faith?" Most of us have every kind of baggage, but we try to travel without faith. All the other things we have will not help if we do not have faith in a true and living God. God loves to see that His children have faith.

Mark 4:39 says that Jesus rebuked the wind. When I first read this passage, I thought God sent the storm because He knows everything. But the text says He rebuked the wind. The Greek work for *rebuke* means "to muzzle." In other words, Jesus told the wind to shut up. And the winds shut up, and there was a great calm.

After 9/11 I heard a lot of people say that the Lord hit the World Trade Center towers in New York. No, the Lord did not do that; the devil did. The devil believes in stealing, killing and destroying. If we give the devil half a chance, he will destroy our lives. The only protection we have is the Lord wrapping Himself all around us. I want Him to be with me everywhere I go. I don't want to go anywhere without the Lord. I need Him every morning and every evening. I don't care who you are, your only protection from the devil is God. When the storm is raging, and I find comfort and strength in the fact that I am not alone, and that when I, not unlike the disciples, reach the end of my rope a simple, "Peace, Be still" from the Lord brings a great calm in my life.

There is a promise for suffering, and there is a profit from suffering. When you have gone through some things, you end up a better person.

- The rainbow does not show up until the storm is over.
- The fragrance will not come from the rose until you squeeze it.
- Gold will not shine until it has gone through the fire.
- We will not be what God would have us to be until we have gone through a little suffering.

I know it does not seem fair to you, but God is trying to take you to another level. Psalm 51:5 says that we were all born in sin and shaped in iniquity, which means that God must carry us through some channels to get us to where He wants us to be. But His Word gives us assurance for the journey.

**Joh 16:33** *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.*

**Isa 40:31** *But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew **their** strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; **and** they shall walk, and not faint.*

**Psa 27:1** *A Psalm of David. The LORD **is** my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD **is** the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

**Psa 27:2** *When the wicked, **even** mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.*

**Psa 37:1** *A Psalm of David. Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.*

**Psa 37:2** *For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.*

**Psa 121:1** *A Song of degrees. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.*

**Psa 121:2** *My help **cometh** from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.*

**Psa 121:3** *He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.*

**Psa 121:4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.**

**Psa 121:5 The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.**

**Psa 121:6 The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.**

**Psa 121:7 The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.**

**Psa 121:8 The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.**

We are going to face trouble. We are going to face heartache. The world is falling apart around us at such a rate that it is easy to feel alone, and easy to get depressed. But I am so glad that whatever we are going through, God will not leave us by ourselves. He is able, and is willing to bring us through whatever we are dealing with.

I am reminded of a father and son who were on their way up a steep mountain. The daddy was in front and the little boy was behind him. The little boy took his daddy's hand and started climbing the hill. The daddy said, "Hold on son," and he would take another step. The little boy said, "Daddy, my hand is slipping. I tell you what you do, Daddy: Instead of me holding your hand, you hold mine because your hand is bigger than mine."

And that's what I tell my Father: "Father, I stretch my hand to Thee no other help I know. If Thy withdraw Thyself from me, oh, whither shall I go?"