

GOD EXALTS THE HUMBLE

While Haman was finally punished by King Xerxes, Mordecai was given a signet ring. A signet ring was a symbol of full royal authority. Mordecai was exalted to a higher position, a position where Haman was placed before. Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman. Wow, what a promotion!

This was how God exalted a humble person like Mordecai. A short while ago, Mordecai was just a low rank officer in the palace gate. The next moment, he became the second highest rank after King Xerxes. Esther 10 says that he was the most important man among the Jews. And his fellow Jews respected him very much.

Who, but God alone, could do such a thing? When God exalts His people, it is not for them to glorify their own names. God has a purpose for promoting His people. His purpose is for them to do greater things so that His plan will be fulfilled.

Let's be humble under His mighty hand. Wait patiently for the honour that comes only from Him at His perfect time. God exalts the humble.

Key verse:

*Matthew 23:12
For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*

Prayer

Dear God, let me always be humble under Your mighty hands as all the rewards and honour come from You alone in Your perfect time to lift Your name high. Amen.



JOB 1:1-8

BE A PERSON GOD CAN BE PROUD OF

Job is a wealthy man living in a land called Uz with his large family and extensive flocks. The Bible writes that God said that there is no one on earth like Job as he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. This was how God described Job. What an extraordinary thing to say of someone. And it was splendid because this statement came from God Himself.

Blameless means free from guilt or innocent. Upright means honest and just in actions. Job was known as a courageous man who feared God and shunned evil. Fear of God corresponds to conducting our lives in respect and acknowledgment of God. Job treasured his fear of God. Job turned away from evil that the world offered and he also guarded his heart from it.

How would you want God to describe you? Would you want it to be just an ordinary description or an extraordinary one like Job's? Let's learn from Job together and be someone whom God is proud of.

Key verse:

*Psalm 15:2
Walk straight,
act right, tell
the truth.*

Prayer

*Dear God, I want
to be someone
who is blameless,
righteous and
upright like
Job. Let me be
someone whom
You are proud of.
Amen.*



JOB 2:11-13

COMFORT IN SILENCE

Job was in despair because within a day, he lost his children, servants and wealth. He had three friends. They were Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar. They came and visited Job and wept with him for seven days and seven nights. They knew what Job needed was silent encouragement and comfort. They sat silently until Job decided that he was ready to talk.

There are times when you feel so down and what you need is just some comfort in silence, not in lengthy words. The things you need are a listening ear, prayer, someone to lean on, someone to cry with or just a comforting hug. Sometimes, those silent actions are more helpful than any words.

Sometimes, physical presence might become the most comforting way to help someone who is grieving from a loss or who is feeling hopeless. Sometimes, having someone else to cry with you makes you feel comforted and less lonely. Sometimes, a comforting hug can be more healing than a thousand words.

Just be there for your friends in their suffering. Just make yourself available to accompany them. May you be a blessing for your friends.

Key verse:

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Prayer

Dear God, give me wisdom so that I can react appropriately to comfort my friends when they are in despair. Amen.





DEVOTION

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JOB 6:11-13

GOD'S LIMITLESS STRENGTH AND POWER

After Eliphaz spoke to Job, Job started to answer him. Job honestly confessed to his friends that he felt that he had no strength, power and felt hopeless. Job felt so powerless to help himself. He felt he had no strength to stand up and to live again. A child is a lifetime-treasure for parents. And he happened to lose all of his children. He felt empty and hopeless.

As children of God, you and I can always turn to God as He is our strength and shield and He is powerful. You should never lose hope. God is absolutely committed to us. He loves us with an everlasting love. He is faithful and never leaves us. He is always available for us.

At certain times, you might be stressed over your tests or exams or things that are happening at home despite your effort to live the kind of life that pleases God. Rest assured and believe that God Himself will give you power and strength for a victorious life. Your strength is limited while God's is limitless.

Key verse:

*Psalm 28:7a
The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust Him, and He helps me.*

Prayer

Dear God, I need you. Let me find strength and power in You. Embrace me in Your arms and never let me go. May Your grace abound in me every single day. Amen.



JOB 9:32-35

JESUS IS OUR MEDIATOR

How Job wished there was someone who could speak to God on his behalf, someone who could help him escape from his misery. Job cried out for someone to stand between God and himself. Job was hoping for a mediator.

A mediator or a go-between is someone who stands in the middle of two people or two parties to settle a dispute. Praise God! When we earnestly seek God, He will reveal Himself to us and make us know Him more. In the end, God revealed Himself to Job and made Himself known to him.

You and I are blessed to have Jesus as the mediator between us and God. Jesus has made peace between God and us by dying on the cross to cleanse our sins. By dying for us, Jesus has made it possible for us to speak directly to God through prayer. And God revealed Himself to us through Jesus.

Key verse:

*1 Timothy 2:5
For there is
one God and
one mediator
between God
and mankind,
the man Christ
Jesus*

Prayer

*Dear Jesus Christ,
thank You for
making it possible
for me to pray
and talk directly
to God. Thank
you for Your
sacrifice. Amen.*





JOB 10:8-12

THANK YOU FOR MY LIFE, GOD!

Even in his despair, Job still could acknowledge God's mighty power. He proclaimed that God was the one who created him. It would not be possible that God who created him would abandon him in the end.

Just imagine this. You sewed your own dress from scratch or built a big building out of lego-blocks for many weeks. There is no way you would want to destroy it. You would want to take care of it with so much love because you spent so much time and effort to make it!

There was a glimpse of hope that shone brightly behind his suffering. Job found there were reasons to be thankful to God despite his suffering. Job could not deny God's past work in his life as his Creator. He had lived for many years surrounded by God's blessings and he didn't let his suffering make him forget about God's kindness.

You may not understand why you sometimes have to face a difficult time, but it is a good idea to stop for a moment and reflect on the kindness and care that God has shown to you up to this point.

Key verse:

Job 10:12

*You gave me life
and showed me
kindness. And in
Your care You
watched over
my life.*

Prayer

*Dear God,
thank You for
creating me with
tender love and
designing my
life for a great
purpose. Thank
You for giving
me life, love and
provision. Amen.*





JOB 13:15-16

NEVER GIVE UP

Even when Job did not understand why he had to suffer those sufferings terribly and felt as though his life was over, he could still exclaim yet will I trust Him. He didn't understand but he trusted God. Nothing can shake the faith of someone who's so grounded in the goodness of God.

Just like Job, you are to have such faith, even when it seems hopeless. In this world, your faith is not to fail even if your situation seems hopeless. Job realizes his pain was not permanent. With God, there is always a way of escape from suffering.

That's the way for you when you place your trust in God. You will find that no matter how impossible it seems, there will always be hope. God will keep His promises. God is true. His word is true. There is hope and joy in Him.

"The rain may be falling and lightning fills the sky
The wind may blow around me and thunder may go boom
The clouds are disappearing
Never give up 'cause He's always there
Remember God is always by your side" *)

*) Never Give Up - Hillsong Kids

Key verse:

*Job 13:15
Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him*

Prayer

Dear God, help me recognise that even in the most difficult exams or problems I have, You are with me. I won't give up. Amen.

