

## The Truth About Trouble

Job 5:6-7; 14:1

In this message I want to return to take a closer look at Job 5:6-7 and preach on “The Truth About Trouble.”



Trouble doesn't just spring out of the ground like weeds (v.6). Trouble doesn't come randomly or by chance. There is a reason behind trouble.

The basic assumption of Job's three friends was trouble is “self-induced” or “self-inflicted.” They were saying, “Job, the reason you are having trouble is because you have brought it upon yourself.” While what Eliphaz said in our text is true, it is a truth *misapplied* to Job's situation.

Trouble is linked with man's BIRTH. Man was born wrong. He was born with a sinful nature (Ps. 51:5). So naturally trouble comes just as sparks naturally fly upward. That is why a man must be “born again”—His first birth was wrong. Your first birth will not get you into heaven (John 3).

There is no escaping trouble in this life. Trouble is part of living in a fallen world filled with fallen men and fallen angels. Much of our trouble may be attributed to “spiritual warfare” (Eph. 6:10-12; 1 Thess. 2:18).

➡ I believe we can all say “amen” to Job 5:7.

- Psalm 34:19—“*Many are the afflictions of the righteous...*”
- Paul wrote, “*We are troubled on every side...*”
- Job agreed in Job 14:1.

Trouble is not necessarily a bad thing. Trouble can be a blessing in disguise. How? God uses trouble as an instrument to accomplish His plan for our lives.

➡ THREE WAYS God uses trouble:

### I. **God uses trouble to REDEEM sinners.**

➡ The reason many remain unsaved is they are so busy and so affluent they don't think they need God. They are getting along fine without God. So, God will allow trouble to come into their lives to help them recognize they need God. Many get saved when they are in trouble (disease... divorce... drugs... prison).

A. The case of Manasseh (2 Chron. 33:1-7, 9).

1. Would you agree that Manasseh was a wicked king? Would you agree he needed God?
  2. Manasseh did not have time for God during his prosperous years (v. 10).
  3. What did God do to lead Manasseh to repentance? He sent trouble (vs. 11-13).
  4. Any trouble that leads a person to God is absolutely worth it!
- B. The case of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32).
- The prodigal was proud, arrogant, and living it up... then trouble came—He ran out of money... A mighty famine came... He found himself in the hog pen. It was then that he turned back to his father and home.
- C. The case of Chuck Colson.
1. He was President Richard Nixon's White House Counsel. He did not believe in God, and was ruthless about getting his way. His biographer said during his time in the White House, Colson had the coldest heart of anyone he knew—"Colson would walk over his own grandmother" if she stood in his way of doing what he wanted to do." As Nixon's "hatchet man" he was one of the most powerful and feared men in Washington during the early 1970's.
  2. Then trouble came—"Watergate." Colson was sent to federal penitentiary. While in prison, some believers witnessed to him and gave him a copy of C.S. Lewis' book *Mere Christianity*. Colson was "born again" and his life changed. After he was released from prison he founded *Prison Fellowship* in 1976, which is "the nation's largest outreach to prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families."

## II. God uses trouble to **REFINE** believers.

### A. The refining involves a **PROCESS**.

1. When God saved you, it wasn't the end, but the beginning of a process. God is not through with you yet. None of us have "arrived" spiritually. We are still a diamond in the rough.
2. **We are a work in progress.** The Bible says, "*he which hath BEGUN a good work in you will PERFORM it until the day of Jesus Christ.*" (Phil. 1:6). As the chorus goes:

He's still working on me  
 To make me what I ought to be  
 It took Him just a week to make the moon and stars  
 The sun and the earth and Jupiter and Mars  
 How loving and patient He must be  
 'Cause He's still workin' on me

3. Job later realized he was being refined— "*But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold*" (Job 23:10).

### B. A refining process also involves a **PURPOSE**.

1. God's ultimate purpose is that He might be glorified. As one ancient catechism states: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."
  - Psalm 19:1— ***The heavens declare the glory of God;***
  - Isaiah 43:7— ***Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory...***
  - Ephesians 1:12— ***That we should be to the praise of his glory...***
  - 1 Corinthians 6:20, "*...ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*"
  - 1 Corinthians 10:31— "*...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*"
  - Revelation 4:11— ***Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.***

2. God's glory is accomplished in us as we are conformed to the image of Christ. This is a process. It doesn't happen over night.

➡ God uses trouble as a means to conform us to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:28-29). Notice the context (what is included in "*all things*"):

- v. 18— "*suffering*"
- v. 22— "*...groaneth... travaileth in pain*"
- v. 26— "*infirmities... groanings...*"
- v. 35— "*...tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine...*"

3. **ILLUS:** A sculptor was asked how he made such beautiful sculptures? He answered, "I start with a big block of granite, and chisel away everything that doesn't look like who I am sculpturing!" Trouble is God's chisel that cuts away from our lives whatever doesn't look like Jesus.

4. Dr. Curtis Hutson—"Trouble is God's way conditioning His saints."

### III. God uses trouble to **REDIRECT** the backslider.

➡ 2 Chron. 15:3-4— *But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.*

A. The case of Judges. "*Therefore thou deliveredst them into the hand of their enemies, who vexed [troubled] them: and in the time of their trouble, when they cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and according to thy manifold mercies thou gavest them saviours, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies*" (Neh. 9:27).

B. The case of Jacob (Gen. 34:30-35:1)

C. The Psalmist (Psalm 119:67, 71)

D. The case of Israel in the tribulation—Zech. 13:8-9— God will bring trouble upon a third part of Israel in the tribulation period to get them to return to God as His people.

**SUMMATION:** We can receive comfort in trouble knowing our trouble is working it for our good. The One who sent the trouble controls the trouble. When we are in the furnace of affliction, His hand is on the thermostat.

He knows what we are going through because He has been through the trouble Himself.

"Jesus knows all about our struggles;  
He will guide til the day is done!"

Job 5:19—"*He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.*"