

MEDITATION 13, Psalms 25 & 26:
“God Makes Hard Times Into Something Good.”

Oh LORD, I set my hope on You; my God, in You I trust; may I not be disappointed, may my enemies not exult over me... My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for He will loose my feet from the net. Turn to me, have mercy on me, for I am alone and afflicted. My deep distress increases; deliver me from my straits. Look at my affliction and suffering, forgive all my sins. Psalm 25:1, 2, 15-18

Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked without blame; I have trusted in the LORD; I have not faltered. Probe me, O LORD, and try me, test my heart and mind; for my eyes are on Your steadfast love; I have set my course by it... My feet are on level ground. In assemblies I will bless the LORD. Psalm 26: 1, 2, 12

During a Bible study somebody asked “what does it mean when the Bible says those who believe in the Lord will prosper in all they do?” In our discussion we concluded the Bible does not promise we will prosper in EVERY situation. The Bible tells us troubles will come to all of us. The Apostle Paul experienced many troubles but did not despair while in the midst of those troubles because he saw that God could bring something good out of the hardest situation (Romans 8:28). The promise is even in midst of pain there is cause to hope. God is at work and out the mess He will bring something good into our life.

Probably the most painful and discouraging times are when people we love and invested ourselves in disappear from our lives. Maybe a family member, business a partner or coworker spoke falsehoods about us or defrauded us in some way. Perhaps somebody we trusted revealed a confidence or after hearing our story responded with indifference. Perhaps those we thought were our friends have believed some evil lie about us and have turned their backs on us.

When bad times came the Psalmists freely expressed pain, anger, desire for vengeance and prayed for deliverance and justice. That’s OK. We can take our feelings to God in total honesty and freedom. He knows we are mortal, he knows we feel pain and need space to vent our frustrations. The God of Israel is big enough to bear our pain. At the end of the day, keep listening to God and waiting for his salvation. Those who trust in him and live according to his will shall see a better day.

Prayer: “Father in heaven, forgive me my mistakes and sins as I forgive those who damage me. Deliver me from enemies who seek to do me harm. Cause me to praise your name in the midst of the congregation of the faithful. Amen.”