

MARK 13, 1-13

ENDURANCE

"IF THOU FAINT IN THE DAY OF ADVERSITY, THY STRENGTH
IS SMALL" PROVERBS 24: 10

From an early age there existed in Israel men who gave themselves to the study of what was called wisdom. This wisdom was not peculiar to Israel but was found throughout the ancient east, especially in Babylonia, Egypt and Edom. Solomon, became its patron in Israel and was credited with having become the wisest man in the world. It was partly due to his powerful name it won a place in the Bible. The books of Job, Ecclesiastes and Proverbs are called the wisdom books. And to a great many they are very interesting. They have no axe to grind, no institution such as a nation or the priesthood to promote, no advantage of their own to seek. They are concerned entirely with the good of the reader, or hearer. They seek merely to advise. They affirmed truth by speaking in proverbs. Exposition-They used old sayings to back up truthful expressions like If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. Truly if a man is overpowered by calamity, if he is overmastered, made useless, if his manhood be laid prostrate by misfortune it is a sign of weakness. Any Christian can be a Christian when all is going well. Any man can be strong if he has no opposition but it is the man who is strong in the face of opposition that proves his strength. But so many Christians say proverbs are bullies and cowards. Paul says God wants bold soldiers in his band.

1. It is not necessarily a sign of a weak, defective character, that a man is the victim of misfortune. All calamities are not the direct penalty of individual transgression. To some extent, indeed, are responsible for those general disasters that come on nations and communities. Exposition- This is so true for after a fashion we have all sinned and there is no good but God

2. Then again, it is no sign of weakness when men show that they feel, and that keenly, their misfortunes. Pain is a natural appointment, and for the most part involuntary and unavoidable. There is nothing disgraceful improper or unmanly in letting the world know how greatly we suffer, or in how greatly we rejoice. One man will bear an affliction that smites like the blow of a sledgehammer, and break break his heart under the dull monotony of a pain which oppresses him like the gloom of a dungeon. But to endure pain with patience and fortitude is one thing; to try to seem perfectly indifferent to it, or utterly unaffected by it, is another. Exposition-~~W~~ I am merely trying to point out that some people are or display their pain in a manner peculiar to their nature. Inwardly and outwardly. Mother with regard to son being lost in battle.

3. Again, it is not a sign of weakness, if, when a man is overtaken by adversity, he pauses for a time to consider

its nature and consequences and his own duty. Obstacles produce in a man one or several results. They may generate despair and impell a man to go forward, or they may cause a man to stop and question his next move.

Exposition- It may be sufficient to say that only a fool does not try to understand adversity. I cannot say how one can fully interpret his situation but one must try to examine him or herself to discover their faults or failures. Jobs friends questioned Jobs actions in trying to determine the reason for his calamity. A prudent man foreseeth the evil and hideth himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.

4. Again, It is no proof of weakness for a man when admonished by some decisive disaster that the course which has been pursued in seeking any end is wrong, to take advantage and abandon it and enter on a new course. Exposition -some people are too foolish to realize that God is seeking to warn by disaster and if we heed and turn around before it is too late we can make amends for our mistakes. It is wisdom to admit ones mistake and to make a change for the best. Not to do so is pride that goeth before a fall.

But let us consider very briefly what it is to faint in the day of adversity. And what are the signs of weakness which adversity brings into prominence.

1. It is a sign of weakness in adversity to lose faith in God. All the issues and sufferings of life which visit the human family are embraced in his purposes and permitted

or ordained for their good. Nothing must be allowed

to rob the soul of its faith in God. Exposition-It is my belief that God does not put any more upon a man than what he can bear. However, God will test a mans faith to assure Himself of our belief in him. God tested Abraham when he was sent up to sacrifice Issac. Thou shalt not be afraid of the terror by night or the arrow that flighh by day a thousand shall fall at thy right hand and ten thousand at thy left but he shall give hid angels charge over the to bear the up in the day of adversity.

2. ^{It} is a sign of weakness in adversity, when men lose their faith in the right. No man can maintain his faith in God, and lose his faith in right. Nor can he maintain his faith in the right and lose his faith

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD - I SHALL NOT WANT HE MAKETH ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES - HE LEADETH ME -

in God. Exposition-This is indeed the day of adversity and on ever side there seems to be just cause for men to lose their faith in God and the right. Their is always and age old battle in the world of right against

wrong. And we find that the forces of evil are in a never ending struggle against right. And in this never ending struggle men have lost their way. Men are losing their way today. If we lose our way, let us try to find it again and go on. If we find unforeseen obstacles, let us bring all of our power that we can to remove them out of the way then go on. If the enemy is thicker on the way than we had anticipated let us multiply our forces, power and resources, bet a littla more watchful and determined but go on. If the road is longer to the goal than anticipated, let us be a little more patient, but let us go on. If the path is a little steeper than we thought it was let us take a little more time but go on. If we fall down, let us get up and brush ourselves off and keep o n going on. If we are badly hurt sometime, let us do our best to get over it and go on. Let winds blow let adversity come If God is our leader He will send a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. Right will win. God is our leader and He gives commands

BE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH I WILL GIVE YOU A CROWN OF LIFE