

Lesson 186 Obstacles May Come

Obstacles may come in your path but don't allow them to take you away from the Lord. No turn them over to the Lord instead. Don't be conquered by obstacles, grow from or through them instead. Allow them to help you gain greater trust in the Lord, remembering that nothing is impossible for Him. Therefore have complete trust in Him to (even) help you over all the obstacles along your way. He's always there. He will guide you along the way. You never have to find your way alone as He will guide you every step of the way. In other words, there is no obstacle He cannot scale or direct you around. Depend on The Lord, He will lead the way. On this you can depend. That is all for now, go in peace.

Introduction

Today's lesson is about avoiding the obstacles of life that **take you away from the Lord**. An obstacle is defined as something that obstructs or hinders progress. Therefore obstacles slow you down, and in some instances, they even halt your progress all together. But the Lord says that this does not have to be so because He is here to help us. He will lead us down the path we are to follow. We can depend on Him.

And then as I was beginning to work on this lesson the Lord led me to the book of Habakkuk. In this book the prophet Habakkuk inquires of the Lord. He cannot understand how wickedness can be allowed to surround the righteous. But the Lord reassures Him that all is in His control even though it might seem as if wickedness is on the rise and allowed to have free reign.

The Lord explained to Habakkuk that He was going to use the terrible "Chaldeans" (**people full of self**) to execute His judgment. The Lord described the "Chaldeans" like this He said in,

Habakkuk 1:7 *“They are terrible and dreadful, their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves.”* (i.e. it proceeds from self; not from the Lord)

God does, however, make it clear that even though He is going to use them, they will in the end be destroyed themselves.

But these are not the parts of the story that related to today’s lesson in my mind. Yes this is a prophecy about end times and it relates to matters concerning all humanity but it also can be looked at from an individual standpoint I believe. The parts that I was drawn to, they involved timing and getting rid of self, debt, and peer pressure. These are the parts of the story that reminded me of the obstacles that can get in our way today. For example,

Some obstacles are of our own creation, like being impatient wanting it to happen now in our timing as opposed to the Lord’s timing. We become so focus on now, now, now, that we lose sight of the Lord and His plan. To this type of scenario the Lord said in,

Habakkuk 2:3 *...For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it will speak and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it, because it will surely come, it will not tarry.*

Consequently we can say that the Lord’s plan will occur at the appointed time. We don’t have to rush things along. Therefore, whether we are talking about a job, a new purchase, a vision, or a revelation from the Lord, no matter the subject, when we try to make things happen in our own timing, then we create an obstacle for ourselves. But this is actually just a small glimpse into the bigger obstacle of **self** isn’t it? The Lord spoke of this in,

Habakkuk 2:4-5 *“Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; ... Indeed because he transgresses by wine. He is a proud man and does not stay at home because he enlarges his desires as hell, and he is like death, and cannot be satisfied. He gathers to himself all nations and heaps up for himself all peoples.”*

This person's soul is not upright because he is doing things for himself. He is selfish and only wants to satisfy his own desires and wants, regardless, of the consequences to others. He is not focused on the Lord and His ways. This man in the story thought only of himself. These same traits of selfishness can be seen corporately or individually as well. Therefore selfishness is a big obstacle for us today.

Another obstacle that was mentioned in the book of Habakkuk was that of indebtedness.

Habakkuk 2:6-7... *“And to him who loads himself with man pledges? Will not your creditors rise up suddenly? Will they not awaken who oppress you? And you will become their booty.”*

This passage was interesting to me because of the Lord's use of the words “loads” and “oppress”. It was interesting because isn't that exactly what debt does to you, it weighs you down under a heavy load. The Lord knows that this will take your focus away from Him as well.

And finally the last example that I will share with you from the book of Habakkuk comes in this,

Habakkuk 2: 15-16 *“Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, pressing him to your bottle, even to make him drunk, that you may look on his nakedness! You are filled with shame instead of glory. You also drink.”*

This passage speaks to me of peer pressure. Yes, it is the wicked man who presses his neighbor to drink, but the neighbor, he did drink; therefore, he succumbed to the pressure that was placed on him by another. He did not stand strong in the Lord. This is just another example of an obstacle that can come in your way. And that is why the Lord said, **Obstacles may come in your path but don't allow them to take you away from the Lord. No turn them over to the Lord instead.** This is the theme of today's lesson. It is the message we will continue to explore as we move forward in this.

Don't Be Conquered - Grow

In the introduction section of today's lesson we read from the book of Habakkuk. What we discovered is that there are many different kinds of obstacles that can come across our path to slow our forward movement in the Lord; but we are to turn all these situations over to the Lord. We are to allow Him to lead. The Lord then continued with this, He said:

Don't be conquered by obstacles, grow from or through them instead.

This reminds me of several verses from the bible, for example in:

Romans 5:1-5 *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

Here Paul is saying that tribulations (obstacles) produce perseverance, perseverance character, etc. etc. etc. Paul decided to have a positive outlook about the obstacles that came across His path didn't he? He basically said that they help to establish a new character in each one of us. This reminded me of this Rhema word that was just recently received. It reads like this:

06/20/14 - Have faith, let not your faith be shaken. Times of trouble build character. One cannot go through life without incurring obstacles. Life is made up of ebbs and flows, ups and downs. This is what forms character, this is what builds compassion, sympathy, and understanding for others. You will overcome this soon enough. Have faith that all is in My control and I will keep you always.

What the Lord was telling this man is that **we cannot go through life without** coming across **obstacles**, we should not allow these to shake our faith, no, we should **grow from them instead**.

And to the two listeners the Lord described these obstacles as hurdles that we must go up and over in order to Rise above. He said it like this:

June 9th God Calling - Rise above your fears and fancies into My Joy. It will suffice to heal all your sores and wounds. Forget all sense of failure and shortcomings, all the painful jolts and jars, and trust Me, love Me, call upon Me.

Your discipleship is an obstacle race. "So run that ye may obtain." Obtain not only your hearts' desires, but obtain Me - your souls' Joy and Haven. What would you think of the runner who threw himself on the ground in despondency at his first hurdle? Over, and on and up. I am your Leader and your goal.

What the Lord essentially told these people is that we should not allow any obstacles to halt our progress in Him. We have to run if we want to continue to **grow**.

06/24/14 - **Obstacles may try to come in My way, to halt progress but this shall not be so. I am in control. I have the plan. I have the power and the authority. I beseech you to use this power, this authority in My name. The enemy will try to come against you but he will not succeed as you are well grounded in Me. Continue down this narrow path. Continue and grow. Do not fear. I AM with you.**

07/06/14 - **Much is happening with each one of you. I am molding and shaping you into the individuals and the unit/group I would have you be. Keep it up, you are growing in Me. In this I am well pleased. There is much ahead for each one of you. You all will grow in Me.**

08/01/14 - **Keep reading, keep growing, keep your focus on Me. In this you will be well pleased.**

08/10/14 - **In meekness continue to walk with me, I will show you things to come. Align, keep it straight, walk with me all ways, even when it's hard, you will grow while going through tuff times. Balance, right measure that is what I like.**

08/12/14 - I walked on water, You can too, Know Me, Grow closer to Me each day, Proceed.

From all this we can gather that the Lord is saying that, yes obstacles may get in your way, the enemy may try to come against you, but he will not succeed, if you are well grounded in the Lord. The Lord said that He will use these to mold and shape you into the person He created you to be. So in that sense it definitely sounds as if obstacles could be regarded as opportunities for growth! We could look at Peter as an example of this. Remember in:

Matthew 26:34-35 *Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night before the rooster crows you will deny Me three times." Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with you, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples.*

And then later in:

Matthew 26:69-75 *Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying." And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.*

Peter's obstacle in this particular situation was fear. And his opportunity for growth was explained thusly to the two listeners:

April 4th God Calling - I am all-powerful and all-knowing and I have all your affairs in My Hands. Divine efficiency as well as Divine power is being brought to bear on them. All miracle-work is not the work of a moment as so often men imagine. My servant Peter was not changed in a flash from a simple fisherman to a great leader and teacher, but

through the very time of faithlessness -- through the very time of denial -- I was yet making him all that he should be. Impetuous spokesman as he always was, ready to lead the other disciples, Peter could never have been the after power he was, had he not learned his weakness. No man can save, unless he understands the sinner.

The Peter who was a mighty force for Me afterwards, who, more than all others, founded My church, was not even first the Peter who said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," but the Peter who denied Me. He who had tested My forgiveness in his moment of abject remorse, he could best speak of Me as the Savior.

The Kingdom of Heaven can only be preached by those who have learned to prize the authority of its Kingdom. A many-sided training My Apostles need. Oh! joy. Oh, rejoice. I love you. Not one test too much will I lay on you.

Peter learned from the obstacle he faced. He grew in spite of it. You can see how he applied this idea of, **Don't be conquered by obstacles, grow from them instead** to his life. And remember it was the Lord who just recently said that, **Life is made up of ebbs and flows, ups and downs. This is what forms character, this is what builds compassion, sympathy, and understanding for others.** So now we understand how it is possible to grow from the obstacles in our life. Yes, there are those to be avoided but there will be others that we simply grow from instead.

Trust

In the last section of the lesson we learned that we should not be conquered or defeated by our obstacles but we should grow from them instead. The Lord taught us that from these experiences we can build compassion, sympathy and understanding for others. To which He added:

Allow them to help you gain greater trust in the Lord, remembering that nothing is impossible for Him. Therefore have complete trust in Him to (even) help you over all the obstacles along your way.

And of the relationship between obstacles and of having trust in the Lord these connections have been made:

05/25/14 - Life's obstacles removed. Clear sailing.

05/28/14 - I have conquered all your obstacles.

08/11/14 - Remove I the obstacles.

08/14/14 - Continually come forward, continually come to Me for everything, nothing to big or to small/ Trust Me in everything I will guide your way.

08/14/14 - Seek Me not man I have the insight, man receives his insight from Me so I am the source of all things/ You will walk by trust in these last days without trust you will not make it/ Fear not the terrors of the world nor what is to come these things must need be it is all apart of My plan.

08/15/14 - Mastery of self must be made to complete this course/ Upon completion such honor, privilege, rewards await you/ To have those completely made in My image is My goal, perfect man after My likeness/ Never fret, this is possible and will be carried out/ Turn to Me for all things, trust Me to be with you always I will not leave you nor forsake you.

08/17/14 - My plan at work; faultless; trust Me; trust My plan; avoid Satan's snares.

08/18/14 - Commitment to Me is the key, There will be moments of silence, Listen throughout, Get started, Trust Me to get you through.

08/18/14 - I will see you through; trust.

08/19/14 - Alter your mindset, trust Me to guide you out/ Trust My voice, know My voice/ Those who know My voice must trust and act on what I give them/ Never doubt you're hearing Me, you hear Me just fine,

08/20/14 - trust only Me.

08/20/14 - Trust Me even now/ Hand to Me all your frustrations and cares I will take the burden for you/ Lean and look to Me as you have done, My people must truly know what it means to follow Me through thick and thin (saw land that was divided by water with no bridge, then saw the Lord take My hand, then we were on the other side on the land) I will take you where no one else can. It's all about being in step with Me/ Trust Me like you would trust your own judgment knowing My judgment is far greater/ Never doubt.

Many obstacles may come our way but we should not fear, no we should trust the Lord to lead, guide and protect us remembering that **nothing is impossible for Him**. To the two listeners He said,

July 28th God Calling - I am your Shield. No buffets of the world can harm you. Feel that between you and all scorn and indignity is a strong shield. Practice feeling this until nothing has the power to spoil the inward peace. Then indeed a marvelous victory shall be won.

You wonder sometimes why you are permitted to make mistakes in your choice when you sought so truly to do My Will in the matter.

To that I say it was no mistake.... All your lessons cannot be learned without difficulty, and this was needed to teach you a lesson. Not to him who walks on, with no obstacles in his way, but to him that overcometh is the promise given.

So to attain peace quickly in your surroundings, as well as in your hearts, learn your lesson quickly. And the overcoming is never the overcoming of the one who troubled you, but the overcoming of the weaknesses and wrong in your own nature, aroused by such a one.

No lower standard than My Standard shall be yours. "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father in Heaven is perfect."

The Lord is our shield; we can trust Him to help us, **over the obstacles along our way.**

He Will Lead the Way

In the last section of the lesson we learned of the connection between obstacles and trusting in the Lord. What we learned is that the Lord wants to offer certain assurances to us that will help us grow in the Lord in spite of any hindrances that might affect our walk with Him. To this sentiment the Holy Spirit adds:

He's always there. He will guide you along the way. You never have to find your way alone as He will guide you every step of the way. In other words, there is no obstacle He cannot scale or direct you around. Depend on The Lord, He will lead the way. On this you can depend.

And along these same lines He added this:

05/26/14 - Do not be swayed. Stay the course. You are on the right path. The enemy puts obstacles and distractions. Learn. Put on your armor. Neglect not. I AM has spoken. Willingly. Willingly. Remove the hindrances.

06/24/14 - Obstacles may try to come in My way, to halt progress but this shall not be so. I am in control. I have the plan. I have the power and the authority. I beseech you to use this power, this authority in My name. The enemy will try to come against you but he will not succeed as you are well grounded in Me. Continue down this narrow path. Continue and grow. Do not fear. I AM with you.

06/26/14 - My ways established. Your God Jesus leads the way. Continue course charted. Obstacles removed. Near and far see the picture. I AM with you always.

08/20/14 - Set your feet, on solid ground, do not be swayed from the path of the Lord. Follow in closely, do not let a gap develop. Engage in all the activities that bring you closer to Me. Time is of the essence, make good use of your time. Don't allow distractions to take you off course. Follow in close (like you do when you are hiking, the Lord gave me the image of two people walking on a path with one following the other, close behind). Remember the farther you are from the Lord, the easier it is for something to come between you. This is a truth. Keep and remember it as it paints an easily understood picture. That is all for now, just remember to always have the Lord in sight, the closer the better. Go now and do your job.

Therefore from all this we can gather that we can depend on the Lord to remove any obstacles that would sway us from His path. In other words He is always there to guide us down His narrow path. And if we follow close then our feet will be set on solid ground. In the bible it says:

Psalms 32:8 *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

John 16:13 *When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.*

The Lord will guide us, there is no obstacle He cannot scale or direct you around. Depend on The Lord, He will lead the way. On this you can depend. Most recently He said,

07/14/14 - I know how to paint the picture; I teach you like My Father has taught Me.

08/09/14 - Each day holds new challenges; hard work or obligations to be met. But I never give you more than you can bear.

08/10/14 - Comprehend the progression; lambs must learn; come deeper; still much to teach; I AM the master teacher; listen, learn; enact; as I say; as I say.

08/12/14 - Relax, I allow things to happen for a reason, nothing happens without my consent. I will teach you through all this and I will turn it in to good and make it work for your benefit. Don't be afraid, trust, relax in me, bring everything to my attention, release the load, give it to me and I will help you.

Romans 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

We can depend on the Lord to lead the way, knowing that He can turn even obstacles into moments of growth and learning.

Summation

Today's lesson was about avoiding the obstacles of life that take you away from the Lord. We began by looking at the book of Habakkuk. The parts we reviewed involved timing, getting rid of self, debt, and not succumbing to peer pressure. What we learned from Habakkuk is that there are many different kinds of obstacles that can come across our path to slow our forward movement in the Lord; but we are to turn all these situations over to the Lord and allow Him to lead. The Lord taught us that we can even learn and grow from obstacles. We learned that we are to trust Him to lead, guide and protect us. Basically we learned that we can depend upon Him. This message came to us today through these words:

Obstacles may come in your path but don't allow them to take you away from the Lord. No turn them over to the Lord instead. Don't be conquered by obstacles, grow from or through them instead. Allow them to help you gain greater trust in the Lord,

remembering that nothing is impossible for Him. Therefore have complete trust in Him to (even) help you over all the obstacles along your way. He's always there. He will guide you along the way. You never have to find your way alone as He will guide you every step of the way. In other words, there is no obstacle He cannot scale or direct you around. Depend on The Lord, He will lead the way. On this you can depend. That is all for now, go in peace.

Peter's fear became an obstacle for him yet he became a mighty force for the Lord. On the other hand, Sarah 's doubt proved to be an obstacle for her that we are still dealing with today. Remember she laughed when it was revealed that she would have a child in her old age. She did not trust in the Lord but decided to take things into her own hands. Both these people faced obstacles of their own making. We will face obstacles too! It is up to us to seek the Lord's guidance along the way. We can depend on Him.

Psalm 37:23-24 *The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down, for the Lord upholds him with His hand.*

May the Lord bless you in this,
Cindy

<http://www.takehisheart.com>