

DOES JESUS CARE?

“Does Jesus care when my heart is pained too deeply for mirth and song, As the burdens press, and the cares distress, and the way grows weary and long?”

Indeed, the apostle Peter affirms that our Lord cares for us: “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (1 Peter 5:6-7). It is an incredible blessing to understand that Immanuel (“God with us”) cares for us. The very fact that he left the throne of heaven above to spend time among his creation (cf. Col. 1:16) allowed him to comprehend our cares here on earth. Therefore, Jesus was able to encourage us: “Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?” (Matt. 6:25). The phrase “take no thought” comes from the same Greek word as the word “care.” Therefore, notice three qualifications in the book of Hebrews that show his ability to care for us when we are in need.

Jesus cares when we are tempted. The Hebrews writer declared, “Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted” (Heb. 2:17-18). In Matthew 4, we have one example recorded when the great tempter tried his best to entice Jesus three times, but Jesus withstood each time. Luke recorded in his account after the third temptation, “And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season” (Lk. 4:13). Therefore, we know he continually attempted to lure Jesus away from his Father and towards sin and the world until his death, using the scribes and Pharisees on many occasions: “Then one of them, which was a lawyer asked him a question, tempting him...” (Matt. 22:35). The Hebrews writer makes clear that Jesus “hath suffered” because of his temptations – a Greek verb that many times denotes

even pain (cf Mk. 5:26; 8:31). As a result, he is able to help and aid all who suffer through temptation.

Jesus cares when we are in troubles. The Hebrews writer proclaimed, “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb. 4:15-16). The phrase “touched with the feeling of our infirmities” carries the multiple ideas of sympathy for that which makes us feeble. We encounter troubles of mind and body daily, some more than others do. Again, inspired revelation makes known of the high priest for Christians who understands these troubles of life, and sympathizes with us.

Jesus cares when we transgress. His ultimate purpose in coming to this world was to redeem humanity through his death for their transgressions (cf. Isa. 53). Thus, the Hebrews writer states, “For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us” (Heb. 9:24). Through his holy and pure sacrifice before the throne of God, he was able to appease God’s wrath and justice for our transgressions. His earthly mission and death, burial, and resurrection vividly show his care when we transgress. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

“O yes, he cares, I know he cares, his heart is touched with my grief; When the days are weary, the long nights dreary, I know my Savior cares.”

Sam Willcut from Eastside Edifier

BE AN EXAMPLE...IN SPIRIT

Everybody should learn lessons from young people. Paul told his friend, a young preacher named Timothy, to be an “example of the believers...in spirit” (1 Timothy 4:12) so that

others could be better Christians because of Timothy's example. What does it mean to have an exemplary spirit?

In our study of Christ-like young people, we have turned to Samuel, who was an example in Spirit. Samuel's spirit was a spirit of service. In I Samuel 3, he was focused on doing only what God and Eli (the High Priest and Samuel's mentor) wanted him to do. Samuel knew that while he didn't always know what was best, God did.

Does your spirit say, “God knows what's best for me?” If you have that spirit, you'll serve God in every way, and that means you'll be eager to serve others.

First, a spirit of service will lead you to serve members of your family. In Genesis 39, Jacob and Esau (twin brothers) showed they really cared for each other by serving each other. Do you look for ways to serve your brothers, sisters, and parents? (See Ephesians 6:1. Matthew 7:12.)

A spirit of service will also lead you to be hospitable (the doors of your home will be open to others). Romans 12:13 tells us to be hospitable.

A spirit of service will be eager to spiritually serve new Christians who need encouragement (Matthew 18:6. Romans 14:19).

A spirit of service will make you want to serve those who are sick, suffering or sad. Jesus wants to make people who are not feeling well to feel better (Acts 5:16), so while Jesus was human He healed many people. You do not have the power to perform miracles and heal people (nobody does now, I Corinthians 13:8-12). but you do have the power to encourage people who have it rough (Proverbs 17:22).

If we want to be examples of the believers, we'll work to have the spirit of service that was so evident in Samuel (and, we believe, in Timothy).

Caleb Colley from Glad Tidings/Good Things

BIRTHDAYS

Joy Parish, 04-23; Jeremy Gragg, 04-24.

ILL

Sunday: Allen Scott, Chris Edwards (AM), Millie Robertson (PM)

Wednesday: Millie Robertson, Abby Stillwell
Dee Adams continues to recuperate at home. Glennis Foust is in The Sweet Life of Rosehill facility for rehabilitation. Clara Scott requests prayers for her great nephew. Tammy Marcum had outpatient surgery April 16 on her hand and foot.

Those battling cancer: David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Ted Thrasher is in Dyersburg, TN for the Phillips Street Lectures. Robin Brown was in Baltimore on business last week. Trent Thrasher was visiting in Belle, MO.

SYMPATHY

The congregation extends sympathy to Judy Abyad at the passing of her husband, Jamal on April 14. Funeral services were held on April 19 in Pineville, LA. The Carter and Thomas family have gone to Louisiana to be with Judy and the family in Pineville.

GUEST SPEAKER

Jim O'Connor will be our honored guest speaker today. We are pleased to have Jim and Judy with us today!

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 60; Sunday PM, 43; Wednesday PM, 27.

Those To Serve

April 20, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Thrasher

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Trent Thrasher
SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek
PRESIDE..... John Cody Carter
ASSIST..... George Thomas
ASSIST..... John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Chris Edwards
CLOSING PRAYER..... Steve Brown
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Cody Carter

WEDNESDAY 23rd

SONG LEADER..... Ted Thrasher
INVITATION George Thomas

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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