

P211

GRACE NOTES RADIO PROGRAM

TITLE: The Battles Not Yours, but God's – Part 1

SONGS: Out of His great love

Thread of Hope

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. Today Barbara Sandbek begins a 2-part series entitled, 'The Battle is not yours – it's the Lord's'. We'll see how God used adversity to call His people back to Himself, and how He grew their faith as they committed themselves to do his will. It is our prayer that through this series, you'll be equipped to better handle the battles in your life.

**Two frogs fell into a deep cream bowl
One was a very optimistic soul
The other took the gloomy view
"I shall drown" he cried, "and so will you."
So with one last despairing cry,
He closed his eyes and waved 'goodbye'.
But the other frog with a merry grin said,
"I can't get out, but I won't give in.
I'll swim around till my strength is spent,
and having tried, I'll die, content."
So bravely he swam until it would seem
his struggles began to churn the cream.
On top of the butter he finally stopped,
and out of the bowl, he happily hopped.**

**Sometimes I feel like I can't keep my head above water. How about you?
We've all faced tough situations. But, how we view them can truly affect the
outcome. It's all a matter of perspective, isn't it?**

We need to give it all we've got.

The saying goes...

**The right angle to approach a difficult problem is the 'TRY-angle'.
A triangle has three points. So, picture the problem on top and God and us on
each point on the bottom. There's more support with two than if it were just a
straight line.**

Luke 1:37 says...Nothing is impossible WITH God.

In Philippians 4:13, Paul writes...

**I can do ALL things through Christ which strengthens me.
James 5:13 says...**

**Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray.
We should never let adversity get us down...
except down on our knees...with our eyes in the Word.**

**The Bible has the answer for dealing with every trial we face, if we but read it.
2 Chronicles Chapters 19 & 20 tell about a trial the people of Judah faced.**

Let's paint the setting, first.

**Judah had turned from Jehovah God. They were worshipping idols.
It was so bad, they were even sacrificing their sons to the Baals.
God had previously told them that if they worshipped and obeyed Him,
they'd prosper, but if they didn't, they'd suffer. And suffer they did.
God removed His presence and His hand of blessing from them.**

God allowed adversity to get their attention.

**They finally realized they needed Him in their lives and were willing to commit
themselves to Him again.**

**God loved these rebellious people and provided a way to restore fellowship
with Him. He brought a new king on the scene, named Jehoshaphat.**

**The Bible says he was devoted to the Lord. Immediately upon taking the
throne, he removed all the idol worship from the kingdom. He brought the
people together and exhorted them to love and fear Almighty God.**

**We, too, are a rebellious people. We've all sinned against God, followed idols,
and lost our fear of Him. And we suffer the consequences for our disobedience.**

God often allows adversity to get OUR attention.

**When we're willing to commit, we'll find that God is there for us, just like he
was for them, because He loves us.**

**In His great love, God provided THE WAY for us to fellowship with Him
through His Son, Jesus, the King of all Kings.**

Jesus said in John 14:6...

**I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes unto the Father,
but by me.**

Jesus removed the barrier of sin that keeps us from communion with God, when He defeated sin and death on Calvary. He rose from the grave and took His throne in Heaven, to save us from eternal destruction.

The people of Judah chose to follow God and started a new life, and we must make the same choice.

John 3:16: 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.

When we accept this GIFT through believing in Jesus, God will pick us up out of the miry clay and lead us into new life with the King of Kings leading the way.

***** OUT OF HIS GREAT LOVE *****

I'd like to interject a word of personal testimony here. I asked Jesus to give me the gift of Salvation when I was seven, but I didn't fully commit my life to the Lord until my late twenties. My idols were possessions and success. I found Matthew 6:24 to be very true. It says...

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Money or mammon, in the original, means 'that which is trusted'.

God convinced me through adversity and dissatisfaction with things and success, that I needed to give Him control of my life. This was the beginning of a new life for me - there's no turning back, for sure!

The story continues. Things were quiet in the kingdom for a while.

The people of Judah experienced their quiet time while they were learning about God. But then, the Moabites, the Ammorites, and the Menunites (sounds like a bunch of termites) came to make war on them.

**I was curious to see how this Godly king, Jehosaphat was going to handle this. The Bible says, he gathered all the people together to...
have a committee meeting - a gripe session?
No - to seek help from the Lord.**

And he, the King, prayed in their hearing. In his beautiful prayer, he reminded God of who He is and what He had done for them. Now, do you think God needs to hear all this...that it's some kind of ego trip for Him? No! Praying is for our benefit. Praising and worshipping God is required of us, so WE can be reminded of who we have on our side and what we have because of Christ.

I looked at this and said, you know, we need to follow Jehosaphat's example. We should go to God first, when trouble strikes, It would save a lot of frustration. He may send us to talk with someone else later, but let Him direct us. When you think about it, God really is the only one who wants to hear our problems - and He's the only one with the answer!

We, as leaders of anyone, need to pray with those we lead...in their hearing. We all have someone we influence...our kids, friends, coworkers, students. When we pray with these people, we show them that we have needs, too, and that God has the answers. We also teach them to direct their problems to God and not always to us.

We need to recount our blessings like Jehoshaphat did. The song says 'Count your blessings, name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done'. It surprises us because we don't do it enough. When we look to see how God has worked, we'll realize that he has always been there for us. This is one of the greatest faith builders we have.

The Bible is full of examples of people at the end of their rope, who reached out in faith to God for help and found Him to be there. I want to conclude with this hope filled song that talks about one such person.

******* WRITERS: Jess & Sherri Easter
*** THREAD OF HOPE *** TIME: 3:26

THREAD OF HOPE

**The woman needed healing of that dreaded disease
Her money brought physicians
But only Jesus could bring relief
And though her last thread of hope
was worn down to a strand
Her heart held onto faith
till she could touch him with her hand.**

CHORUS

**'Cause when you're hanging by a thread
still you can climb life's mountain
Though the cliffs are rough and jagged
you can cope
If you should slip and reach rope's end
you'll find the hem of his garment
So don't let go of that last thread of hope**

VERSE 2

**Is that you hanging onto a frayed and fragile faith
Are you clinging to the rocks
above a canyon of dismay
Reach out for the lifeline it will never break in two
So hold fast and don't lose heart
Once again God will pull you through**

Repeat Chorus

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write to

Sandbek Ministries

P.O. Box 581

Fallston, MD 21047

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Would you like to sow seed into this ministry. Then why not consider putting them on your prayer list, and sending a donation. This would be a real encouragement to Barb and Dale, and according to Philippians 4:17 It would allow you to share in the fruit of this outreach.

Join us on our next program for the continuation of this great story. Until then, let your grace notes be a song of praise!