

When catastrophes hit, how do people respond? What does it mean to be caught off guard? What types of disasters do you prepare for? Why?

What would you say to someone who declines to get car insurance until they get in an accident? If you own a home, do you have home insurance and why? How about medical insurance? What does it mean to have insurance?

Have you ever gone over a situation in your mind and rehearsed beforehand what your response or action might be? Finally, why is it important to prepare for adversity in your future?

Job 5:6-7 "For affliction does not come from the dust, Neither does trouble sprout from the ground, 7 For man is born for trouble, As sparks fly upward.

Ge 3:17-19 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you shall eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face You shall eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."

1Th 3:2-3 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, 3 so that no man may be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.

Ac 14:21-22 And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and [saying,] "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

Ps 119:55 O LORD, I remember Thy name in the night, And keep Thy law.

We can't remember something we were never aware of. The first criteria of remembering anything is to have knowledge of it beforehand. How does this fit in with being prepared for catastrophes? Where does knowledge of God come from?

Ps 119:34 Give me understanding, that I may observe Thy law, and keep it with all [my] heart.

Joh 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him."

"Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord"; that is, if we industriously labour to know God, we shall have this reward, to be made able to know him more. So may I say of the grace of God: he that delights to keep God's

law shall have his reward, -- to be enabled to keep it more perfectly. A true delight in God's word is grace increasing. --Edmund Calamy (1600-1666), in "The Godly Man's Ark" .

David says he remembers God' s name in the night.

What does remembering God' s name mean? Think of who God is. He is not just the display of His attributes, He is the definition of His attributes.

God defines creation, He is eternal, He is the measure of time; God is faithfulness, He is knowledge and wisdom and goodness and love; He is perfect love, mercy and grace; holiness and perfection and righteousness are measured by Him; judgement is owned by Him; He is the source of power and preservation; God is Truth.

Ver. 55. Thy name; thy holy nature and attributes, thy blessed word, and thy wonderful works; all which come under the title of God's name. Matthew Poole' s Commentary

John Stephen, in the Treasury of David, says " the name of the Lord is his character, his nature, his attributes, the manifestations he hath made of his holiness, his wisdom, goodness and truth" .

night <layil> properly, a twist (away of the light), i.e. night; figuratively, adversity; a season

When we take heed to observe God' s ways, we will be mindful to remember Him even in difficulties.

keep <shamar> to hedge about (as with thorns), to guard; generally, to protect, attend to,; take heed, observe, preserve, regard

The verb keep is in the future, so it is the idea of continually keeping, a deliberate purpose to keep on keeping on as we would say.

Think about this for a moment: **what do hedges do?** They protect. They form a barrier for safety. We protect those things or people that are very important to us.

When things get difficult, temptations to ' slide' a little bit around the Truth can sometimes become greater. **Why?**

The challenge then is to have our catastrophe plan set in place by habitually observing and protecting the truths of the Bible within our daily lives. Then when difficulties present themselves, which they certainly will, we will be able to say like David, " I remember Thy name in the night, and keep Thy law"

And have kept thy law; though imperfectly, yet spiritually, sincerely, heartily, and from a principle of love and gratitude, and with a view to the glory of God, and without mercenary, sinister ends. --John Gill.

Ps 63:6-7 When I remember Thee on my bed, I meditate on Thee in the night watches, 7 for Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy.

When others were asleep, I was calling to mind how good, how powerful, and how faithful thou art; and resolving with myself still to observe thy laws.
Patrick/Lowth/Whitby/Lowman Commentary

Ps 42:8 The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime; and His song will be with me in the night, a prayer to the God of my life.

Ps 77:6 I will remember my song in the night; I will meditate with my heart; and my spirit ponders.

Ac 16:25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

Having early been taught to know Thee, I had only to remember the lessons of thy grace, and my heart was comforted. This verse shows not only that the man of God had remembered, but that he still remembered the Lord his God. We are to hallow the name of God, and we cannot do so if it slips from our memory. ... If we do not keep the name of God in our memory we shall not keep the law of God in our conduct. Forgetfulness of mind leads up to forgetfulness of life. *Treasury of David*

I love the following challenge put before us in the *Treasury of David* in regard to Psalm 119:55:

“ Reader, are your thoughts in the dark full of light, because full of God? Is his name the natural subject of your evening reflections? Then it will give a tone to your morning and noonday hours. Or do you give your whole mind to the fleeting cares and pleasures of this world? If so, it is little wonder that you do not live as you ought to do, No man is holy by chance. If we have no memory for the name of Jehovah we are not likely to remember his commandments: if we do not think of him secretly we shall not obey him openly. ”

Think! **What thoughts typically go through your mind at night?** If we take heed to remember God throughout the day, then He will be on our thoughts during the night also.

In the night. Pastor Harms of Hermansburg used to preach and pray and instruct his people for nine hours on the Sabbath. And then when his mind was utterly exhausted, and his whole body was thrilling with pain, and he seemed almost dying for the want of rest, he could get no sleep. But he used to say that he loved to lie awake all night in the silence and darkness and think of Jesus. The night put away everything else from his thoughts, and left his heart free to commune with the One whom his soul most devoutly loved, and who visited and comforted his weary disciple in the night watches. And so God's children have often enjoyed rare seasons of communion with him in the solitude of exile, in the deep gloom of the dungeon, in the perpetual night of blindness, and at times when all voices and instructions from the world have been most completely cut

off, and the soul has been left alone with God. --Daniel March, in "Night unto Night." 1880.

And have kept thy law. Hours of secret fellowship with God must issue in the desire of increased conformity to his holy will. It is the remembrance of God that leads to the keeping of his laws, as it is forgetfulness of God that fosters every species of transgression. --John Morison.

Application

Think of how God would have you use David' s example in Psalm 119:55 and apply it to your life and circumstances right now. Write down the thoughts and questions that He would have you focus on and we' ll share next week!