

TAKE 5! 5 VERSES, 5 QUESTIONS, 5 MINUTES BY MARY KANE

Hope
and
Trust

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Please take a moment to quiet yourself before God. Ask Him to forgive you for any sin that is on your heart and to fill you afresh with Him Holy Spirit.

Now please read Jeremiah 17:7-11.

What will you be if you trust and hope in the Lord?

You will be blessed. Isn't it wonderful that your hard situation is never hopeless if you are trusting God for the outcome? All other things we trust in to save the day such as money, people, and brain power are limited; money can't cure cancer, people will fail us and wisdom will not solve world hunger. But with God we always have hope (this in itself is a blessing), for nothing is impossible for Him.

According to verse 8, a man who trusts in the Lord is like a what?

Like a tree planted by the waters. Notice that the tree is planted right next to the waters therefore it will thrive during the good times as well as the harshest of conditions. Circumstances that would devastate a tree planted elsewhere have no effect on the tree planted *by* the waters. Likewise, if we have planted ourselves right next to God, we do not need to worry. Circumstances that have the potential to devastate life will not destroy us. We do not need to worry about a season of famine because our provision comes from the Lord. Lack of rain? He is the Living Water! Lack of job? He is the Bread of Life. Divorce? He is our Bridegroom. As Christians we won't just survive these seasons, we will come away from them carrying the fruit of our harvest. In Christ, every situation, every season, every circumstance will cause us to bear fruit. Good seasons=fruit and hard seasons=fruit. In the Lord, all seasons=fruit.

According to verse 7, we are to trust in the Lord, in contrast what are we not to trust in (verse 9)?

Our hearts. Our hearts can be our own worst enemy. When times are hard our hearts will tell us that we will never make it...that this ever-present suffering will destroy our lives. We need to purposefully turn from these thoughts and speak God's truth to our hearts. Plant the seed of His Word amidst your suffering, water it with your tears and you will surely come again rejoicing, carrying your sheaves with you. God will reward you for trusting through the harsh times; when it seems as if there will be no relief. Trust Him anyway. Your blessing will come.

Is there an issue in your life at this time in which you are choosing to listen to your heart rather than the truth of God's Word? If yes, what does God's word say about this issue?

The wisdom of the world says "follow your heart." God says to follow Him despite your heart. Don't wait to obey when you feel like it. Right feelings will follow right decisions. Choose to trust God despite what your heart tells you.

What will happen in the end if we do not choose to trust in God (verse 11)?

We will become fools. We have two choices: To follow our own heart and become a fool, or to follow God and become blessed. The choice is clear.

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