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❖SERMON NOTES❖

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Sunday, February 21, 2016

**“WHEN PROBLEMS COME”**

(Malachi 4:1-6)

The Bible is a story about families and often, families in conflict and crisis. Such times come to every family. When “family” becomes a boxing ring or even a war zone, how would God have us to respond?

**1. Trust the Lord, don’t** \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Proverbs 3:5-6, NLT).

**2. Realize that the answer to suffering is not always to** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Peter 4:12-13, ESV).

**3. Contemplate that God is accomplishing a** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. (2 Corinthians 4:17, NIV).

**4.** \_\_\_\_\_. (Psalm 27:14, ESV).

**5. Don’t just trust that God can change someone else’s heart. Trust that He can** \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Ezekiel 36:26, ESV).

**6.** \_\_\_\_\_ related to family issues.  
(Mark 10:6-9, ESV).

**7. Whatever actions you consider taking, ask whether you can take that action** \_\_\_\_\_.  
(1 Corinthians 10:31, NLT).

**8. Whatever actions you consider taking, ask whether you can take that action** \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Colossians 3:17, ESV).

**9. Whatever action you take, ask yourself if you can take it in keeping with a renewed and transformed mind, and not in** \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_.  
(Romans 12:1-2, ESV).

**10. Whatever action you take, ask yourself if you can take it in keeping with the \_\_\_\_\_.**  
(John 1:17, ESV).

**11. Whatever action you consider, ask yourself if it can be done while bearing \_\_\_\_\_.**  
(Galatians 5:22-23, ESV).

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Sunday, February 21, 2016

**“WHEN PROBLEMS COME”**

(Malachi 4:1-6)

**1. Trust the Lord, don't trust yourself.**

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take” (Proverbs 3:5-6, NLT).*

**2. Realize that the answer to suffering is not always to move away from it.**

*“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed” (1 Peter 4:12-13, ESV).*

**3. Contemplate that God is accomplishing a purpose in your sufferings.**

*“We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope” (Romans 5:3-4, ESV).*

*“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all” (2 Corinthians 4:17, NIV).*

**4. Wait on the Lord.**

*“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!” (Psalm 27:14, ESV).*

*“Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. He gives*

*power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:28-31, NLT).*

**5. Don't just trust that God can change someone else's heart. Trust that He can change and renew your heart.**

*“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26, ESV).*

**6. Meditate on Scripture related to family issues.**

*“I'm thinking about divorce. My friends are all supportive of that. I think it's what God wants me to do.” What does the Bible say? “‘I hate divorce,’ says the LORD God of Israel.” (Malachi 2:16, NLT).*

*“But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female.’ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate” (Mark 10:6-9, ESV).*

*“Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14, ESV).*

**7. Whatever actions you consider taking, ask whether you can take that action for the glory of God.**

*“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31, NLT).*

**8. Whatever actions you consider taking, ask whether you can take that action in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

*“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17, ESV).*

**9. Whatever action you take, ask yourself if you can take it in keeping with a renewed and transformed mind, and not in conformity to the pattern of the world.**

*“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:1-2, ESV).*

**10. Whatever action you take, ask yourself if you can take it in keeping with the grace and truth of Jesus.**

*“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:17, ESV).*

**11. Whatever action you consider, ask yourself if it can be done while bearing the fruit of God’s Spirit.**

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23, ESV).*