



AIM HIGH
July 14, 2010

Yes, I've reverted to the old style, but just for this week. I'm using my old computer for a work project and it was too much trouble to change.

We had a great lesson Sunday about gifts. According to the Scriptures, every person in God's family has a gift. Can you identify yours? Do you use it for his glory?

I am always surprised when, out of the blue, something happens that has to be a God thing. I don't know why I'm surprised because He has always provided exactly what I've needed at exactly the right time.

For quite some time I've asked God why such bad things happened to Vic. I just didn't understand. He was such a good man, he had a great testimony, and he had made such a difference in so many lives. Why would He take Him from me?

Last week I opened the book I'm using with my quiet time and it was the message I really needed to hear. Forgive me again - but the lesson follows. It is from Master Work by Ray Pritchard.

The lesson was concerning the life and ministry of Elijah. This chapter was the story of the widow's son from 1 Kings 17: 17-24. "The story begins this way: 'Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally he stopped breathing. She said to Elijah, "What do you have against me, Man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?" (1 Kings 17: 17-18)

There are so many mysteries about why God does what He does. I'm reminded of the words of Tony Evans, "Everything in the universe is either caused by God or

allowed by God, and there is no third category." That's a hugely important statement. So many times we look at heart-breaking tragedy, and we want to invent a third category called 'Bad things that just happened for no reason.' But there is no such category. When the text says that it came about that the child grew ill, it's the writer's way of saying that what happened to this young boy was not an accident. It was not chance. It was not fate. God was present in the home when that boy died.

The timing of all this deserves our attention. The boy got sick after many weeks and months of miraculous months of the flour and the oil never running out, suddenly the boy got sick and died. Why does it happen that way? We walk with the Lord and we do the best we can, and one day the phone call comes that changes life forever. Or we get a report from the doctor with bad news. Or our children get into terrible trouble. Or our marriage falls apart. Why do these things happen?

It is very easy for us to become complacent in the midst of the blessings of God. We secretly begin to think: *Everything's OK now; I've got life all wired up. My marriage is good, and my kids are good, and my job is good, and life is good, and I love my church. Everything in life is exactly where I want it to be.* If that happens to be your situation at this moment, don't feel bad about that. If your life is like that, you ought to enjoy it and you ought to be profoundly grateful to God. But know these two things for certain:

1. You don't deserve these blessings.
2. They won't last forever.



They never do. Soon enough the clouds will move in, and the rain begins to fall. You shouldn't live in fear, but you ought to be wise enough to know that after sunrise comes sundown, and after high noon comes to darkness of midnight. So it is for all of us sooner or later.

Matthew 5:45 says "...He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

What is a realistic attitude about the rain in our lives?

Job 2:10 says "He replied, You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God and not trouble?"

After the time of God's blessing, disaster strikes. We don't know why the child got sick. It almost seems like a contradiction. There was the testing, then the blessing, and then the sorrow. It seems like it ought to be reversed, turned around somehow, like it ought to be sorrow and then testing, and then blessing. But that's not how God works. It's more often this way: Testing-Blessing-Sorrow.

I don't know why the widow's son died. The mother's dreams were dashed. She didn't see it coming at all. If you go back and read the text, she thought she and her son would die together because of the famine in the land. Now in her anguish and sorrow, she blamed Elijah. 'What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?'

There are at least three problems with her thinking. *First, she seems to have thought having a prophet in the house made her immune from suffering.* Who could blame her, especially after all the miraculous provision of the flour and the oil? But she was wrong. *Second, she assumed that her own sin somehow caused her son's death.* But that does not appear to be correct in this instance. *Third, she blamed Elijah.* It's

human to find someone to blame when tragedy strikes."

How many times in the past 8 months have I asked why? Of course the answer to that question is why not. But that offers no comfort to me. It is comforting, however, to know and believe that regardless of what happens in life, God is in control. There is no other option.

Our Mission Project for July is to bring in school supplies. We have been told that one of the things the schools need most is wide-ruled notebook paper. Bring it in. Deb brought in sacks full of backpacks. Thank you for those as well. The stuff needs to be in our classroom by August 1.

If you signed up to bring Falls Creek food, that is due soon also. Don't forget to pray for the kids and sponsors. It is a wonderful time for our youth.

Prayer List

Denise Church - foot surgery
Christy S (Ridener) - severe unidentified illness
Joann Dean (Chappelle) - health
Pauline Scott (Taber) - health
Jack S (Bulger) - cancer
Katy (Bulger) - 16 year old meth addict
Dwight Hillhouse - health
Mary Jane Bowling (Chappelle) - health
Ray (Ridener) - kidney problems
John F (Shope) - growth on knee

Other Requests

Hoskins family - death of child
Caughman family - death
Rachel Henderson - still needs job
Greg Hitchcock's daughter looking for job
Josh McKinney - looking for job
Bob and Carolyn (Kinser) - issues
Teachers who have lost their jobs
Teachers who remain
Elizabeth S (Cook) - unspoken
Mary Foster - unspoken
Teresa Morrow - unspoken



Praise Reports

Greg Hitchcock - back with us
Linda Miller - doing well
Gerald Miler - defib fixed successfully
Robert Pickryl - successful travel
Mary Etta Forester - home and doing well

I know summer is a time of travel and relaxing - but if you are in town on Sunday, come and be with us. You'll be glad you did I think.

There are many mornings when I'd rather stay in bed - but I find that my life is better if I worship and study.

HOPE TO SEE YOU SUNDAY!!!
