

Luke 10:39 “She had a sister named Mary, which also sat at Jesus feet and heard his Word.”

NEWSLETTER: “MOMENTS WITH MARY”
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“OUT OF THE ASHES”

Isa.61:3 “To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called the trees of righteousness.”

It has been seven years since the tragedy of Nine Eleven! That is a day for many who experienced the horror of it, and we who witnessed it happening on TV, and we cannot erase it from our minds! The seemingly senseless carnage of thousands of innocent people forced a change in the lives of multitudes more! The resulting war has added thousands more victims to that day when the airplanes became missiles of destruction and threatened the very liberties our Land has enjoyed!

Although lives have been forever changed by that fateful day, God desires that we “live again!” When lives just seem to fall apart and lie in a heap on some ash pile, it seems nothing good will ever come our way once more! Are there really any reasons to try to rise out of the dusty ashes at all? Why not just sit there all soiled and miserable?

I am reminded of a man named Job in the Bible. One calamity after another struck his life like bolts of lightning, as one loss then another, was quickly told to him. Did Job have a right to mourn and feel miserable? Of course! We would do the same thing! During his losses, he proclaimed his sorrows and examined his own life, and also questioned God about what happened to him. I have heard people say, “O! You cannot question God when bad things happen!” Well, I believe with all due respect, sometimes He wants us to ask!

I like the way Job challenged his so called comforters! [Read Job 13] vs.11-12 “Will not His majesty terrify you, and the dread of Him fall on you? Your memorable sayings are proverbs of ashes, your defenses are defenses of clay.” It is so easy to misjudge and/or accuse others of not trusting God fully! Listen to Job’s words! Vs.13-16 “Be silent before me so that I may speak; Then let what may come on me. Why should I take my flesh in my teeth, and put my life in my hands. Though He slay me, I will hope in Him. Nevertheless, I will argue my ways before Him.”

The Book of Job is a long conversation that includes mourning, ashes, and heaviness between Job and his friends until God finally speaks up! The men vacillate between accusations and magnifying God’s attributes. Sometimes the LORD allows us to just go

on and on until He's had enough and lets us know it in no uncertain terms! How frightening to Job, when in chapter 38 God answered Job out of a whirlwind! Sometimes when God decides to act it involves some kind of stormy event! [40:6]

Job 40:1-4 "Then the LORD answered Job and said "Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it. Then Job answered the LORD and said, "Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to Thee? I lay my hand on my mouth." After God gives a lengthy revealing discourse on the inadequacy of man and the marvelous power of God, Job repents. Job 42:1-2 "Then Job answered the LORD and said, "I know that Thou canst do all things, and no purpose of Thine can be thwarted. Who is this who hides behind counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know."

A wonderful thing occurred when Job finally repented. Job 42:6 "Therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes." Only after we confess our sinfulness, our angers and bitterness, can God lift us up out of the ashes and begin the work of restoration He desires for us. What are your losses? Someone who failed you or hurt you in some almost unspeakable way? Have you felt you could never really live again? Can you forgive others? You may never have a warm relationship with some of them again, but you can be set free to enjoy beauty for the ashes, and joy for the mourning. God can lift that heavy spirit so His Name can be glorified!

Job 42:9b-10 "And the LORD accepted Job. And the LORD restores the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends, and the LORD increased all that Job had twofold."

The LORD accepted Job and will accept us as we repent! Let the oil of joy flow over your ash pile! Sometimes God moves slowly, and other times it will come "suddenly!" as He brings sweet deliverance! That word of help may come through another Believer, a preaching or teaching, a time of prayer or singing! What a blessing to arise out of that heap of ashes and rejoice in the LORD!

Micah 7:6-7 "Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy; when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a Light unto me!"

When life looks dark and overwhelming, when you feel as though you are sitting on some ash heap, remember the LORD our God who is there to deliver you and set your feet to dancing with His joy!

May the Spirit of praise lift your soul to new heights in Him!

Blessings! Mary Mayko 31423 Ann's Choice Way Warminster, PA 18974
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