

line that goes like this, "Let those refuse to sing, who never knew our God". But we know him and we know what he can do and has done. So we open our mouths and give expression to the music in our hearts.

II. What Produces Night?

Now we have just affirmed the fact that we have a singing religion and that a singing church is a happy church. A singing (home) is also a happy home. If you do not have a song in your heart then there is darkness. There are many things that would produce night in the heart of an individual and put out a song. There are many afflictions of the righteous. And there are some who would feel that they should not be punished in any way, but Solomon said, "He that spareth the rod, hateth the child". So there comes to mind (various things) which might produce the night of darkness and distress.

① Health - Some are ^{afflicted} ~~fortunate~~ in regard to health.

Some of you perhaps enjoy such an abundance of it that you never give it a thought until you meet someone who has been deprived of good health. There were (many of the friends) of Jesus mentioned in the Scriptures who were sick. (Lazarus) a beloved, was sick and one of his sister said, "Lord, he

SONGS IN THE NIGHT

Job 35:10

Job here raises a question, "Where is God my maker, that giveth songs in the night?" Where is God now in this troubled world? We recognize the fact that our religion is a singing religion and this makes it victorious. The (angels) sang at his birth. We celebrate (Christmas) with music and some of the most cherished passages in the Bible are those found in the (Book of Psalms), the hymnbook of the church. Here we find comfort, courage and peace. Here we find expression for our deepest yearnings and the answer to our spiritual needs. The best part of our singing religion is that God gives us a song in the night. We remember the (mockingbird sings) all night through. God is ready always to give us a song in the night. A singing Christian is a useful Christian. A complaining Christian is useless.

I. What God Gives

Job says that he gives (a song) in the night. God is the giver and we know that songs express joy and gladness. There are songs also that express praise and thanksgiving. The songs that he gives are sweet, holy and lasting. Song is

(One of the mightiest influences) in all the world and the Bible has much to say about the power of song.

A (singing church) is a victorious church because when they are united they can sing "Onward Moves the Church as a Mighty Army". In the church we feel that during (congregational singing) we are bound together. It is a pity that many times our hymn singing becomes routine and words are repeated without meaning, but for many the singing of a hymn can be a prayer of dedication, a reaching out to

hold of spiritual power. A singing church is a (moving church). We think about the many times that we have music, special music, congregational singing. Many have testified to the fact that a song in the service has blessed them or led them to Christ. (Moody) was a great preacher, but Sanky made his great contribution through music. R. A. (Torry) was a great teacher and evangelist, but Alexander opened the hearts for the appeal of God's man. Billy (Sunday), with his dramatic presentation was helped tremendously by Homer Rodeheaver with his song and sliding trombone. This is a tremendous opportunity which comes to all of us during the song service. It is a time during the service when (all of us become preachers) when we sing the

message of the songs we are voicing the convictions and beliefs of our hearts. We witness to the word of God. If you will notice in a church where the people are not singing, they are not doing very much for God, for when people sing they express cooperation.

Did you ever stop to realize that the Christian religion is the (only religion) that includes hymn books. For example, Buddhism, Mohammedism, Confucianism and all the rest do not have hymnbooks and we are the only ones who express our worship in song. We are the ones who have (something to sing about). Forgiveness of sin is a cause for singing, and David had an experience that was worth telling about. "He has brought me up out of the miry clay, he has put a new song in my mouth".

Many people think that they cannot participate in the song service simply because they do not have excellent (voices). It is wonderful to have a beautiful voice, but that is not the point. Every Christian should participate because of his love for Christ and because the believer appreciates what God has done in Christ for all of us.

By note By letter -

In the song (We Are Marching to Zion) there is a

difficult to sing. We read in the Bible that the Jews (carried off into captivity) were silenced. The hard conditions into which they were brought had caused them to stop singing. It had been nearly 400 years since (Abraham) left Ur and migrated to the land of Canaan and a great country had been built up and one of the prominent features or worship with them had been their (sacred music) and son. The fame of this (temple music) had spread even to Babylon. But now they said, "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" Perhaps these (foreign) people had requested them to sing some of their songs of Zion. They perhaps replied, how can we sing when our hearts are broken. We are in a strange land and there is darkness all about us.

⑤. Prosperity - Sometimes prosperity silences our singing. There is a tendency to forget God. The greatest peril for any man in the world is the peril of prosperity, whoever he is and whatever his calling. Be he minister in the pulpit, a lawyer, or physician going from house to house, a teacher, a banker a farmer. One of the greatest tests of all is the test of prosperity. How watchful men out to be in this (day of prosperity) lest their pride and sense of self-sufficiency cause them to enter a dark night

without song. (I rejoice) to see people prosper and it is a joy to see those who are strong enough who will not forget that all good gifts come from God, and to know that prosperity increases their obligations of stewardship rather than decrease.

⑥. Sinfulness of the Human Heart - This produces a night. It causes a man to seek to (shun God's presence) as in Gen. 3:8, or to forget God as 1 John 2:15 states. We cannot escape the fact that there are times which try men's souls. Religious faith is no guarantee that there will not be such times. (Sickness) will come and rob us of health (Disaster) will come and sweep away our fortune. (Death) will come and snatch from us a life that is as dear as our very own. Good health is not permanent though many act as though it were. Wealth is not secure though it can make us feel that we are. There are constant tensions in our day and increased pressures of modern living. Most of us evidence a nervousness and strain which robs people of their song.

The thing that we need is the ability amidst all of the evidences of darkness which we have mentioned, to know (how to sing). (Job) said, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." Even though there is despair and confusion and

conflict and we feel that we cannot sing, as Israel, while (exiles) in Babylon, and feel that we are in a strange land because they are separated from their homes by distance and in thought from their God. This brings us to our last thought.

III. When God Gives Songs

1. In the night of our darkest defeat. So you see that we have our night of darkness but let us call to remembrance now our song in the night. The night may be very dark and yet we may hear a song. We may be at the very doorstep of defeat and yet God's grace assures "When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee, and though the floods they shall not overflow thee. When thou passest through the fire thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flames kindle upon thee." Jesus said, I will not leave you orphans. You may depend upon my promises, and dear friends, this was (literally fulfilled) Christians do have songs in the night of their darkest defeat.

I am thinking now of (Paul and Silas) in jail, Acts, 16:25. They were scourged and while they were suffering they were cast into the inner prison and their feet made fast in the stocks and at midnight they were praying.

whom thou lovest is sick".

2. Outward Conditions - Sometimes we are afflicted by wordly circumstances and our trials will never do us good unless they are felt. Paul says, the afflictions of the present are griveous, nevertheless afterward they will yield peaceable fruit. But if we do not take these as coming from the Lord we will not derive benefit from it.

3. Mental - There are the mental and inward afflictions that produce night. These can be very bad, for we re of (David) who expressed it this way, "My bones are vexed, my soul also is sore vexed". We can think of no affliction that would be compared to one of the body and of the mind suffering together, and yet we remember the apostle also said, whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth or corrected. We little know what people suffer. There are some who have (thorns) in the flesh driven in so deep that you cannot see them. There are others who have complaints and distresses that they cannot reveal to others and only in heart do they know its bitterness.

4. Adversity - There are many times when we find it

③. The night of darkest sorrow. This brings us to realize as Psalm 23:4 promises, that he will never forsake us, that he goes beside us. The loss of a loved one. The loss of our means of livelihood, the loss of the dearest treasure which we have. We will discover a song.

If only we can realize the power of the song in the night to lift us above the world and the power to draw us closer to God as (Martin Luther) expressed it in his hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God". This should stir our soul with the knowledge of God's greatness. As the (prayer hymn) "Abide With Me" can make us aware of God's strength and presence, then we think of the words of the hymn of consecration, "Are Ye Able", and we feel a dedication to consecration in the Master's kingdom.

④. Night of Dark Adversity. In this night the song is a song of hope. We must stay close to him if we must have his hope. As when one goes through a Cave he receives instructions to stay close to the guide.

I am thinking of (Jacob) who had fled from his brother, Esau, What a condition he was in and yet what a song was furnished him as he looked around him the next morning

realizing that he had been close to the gates of heaven. He little expected to be able to see the ladder reach from earth to heaven but it appeared in that dark night of adversity and it removed all of his fears that came like a song in the night.

I think again of the Apostle (Paul) in a hurricane when neither the sun nor the stars were visible for many days and, according to his own words, all hope of being saved had disappeared. But there came an angel and stood beside him and said, "Bee of good cheer, for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you but of the ship". And Paul told them that there stood by him an angel of God whose I am and whom I serve. (How many times has this scene been repeated in the night of adversity). The Lord has appeared unto him and has given us a song of hope. (Dr. Truitt) told about going overseas and preaching to the soldiers during World War I and he says, I preached often in the evening shadows and, he said, I would ask them, what would you like to sing, and he said, they would always call for such great songs as "Rock of Ages", "Nearer My God to Thee", "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name". And he says, I have heard them singing until my heart almost pounded out of my

body with gladness that these men just behind the battle line wanted to sing songs like these. He said one day he preached six times to 2500 different men each time, to two groups ~~before~~ nightfall before General Pershing had them march right up to the front. Many of them never came back. But what a wonderful thing to hear men singing about Christ and his mercy.

This reminds us of the story that came out of the Civil War when singing played a prominent part in the lives of the soldiers. They say that two great armies camped not far apart. Almost in sight of each other. At evening time the northern army struck up the Battle Hymn of the Republic, and the southern army sang "Dixie", and as the men arose one of the armies began "Home Sweet Home". Quickly the other army joined in the song of home. Not a shot was fired that night. It seems to me that here is a central lesson that we need this morning. That we should be urged to keep on singing. We should not say we cannot sing in times of stress and strife and storm. Paul at midnight found power for singing. We should sing in all hours of life. What a tonic of hope comes to us when we sing "Come we that love the Lord and let our joy be known".

That seemed to be very natural that anyone in this condition would at least pray, but the remarkable thing is they sang praises to God. Their defeat did not prevent their joy in the Lord. We too are in the prison house of fear, death, misgivings, defeat. We need to sing praises to God and he will let us out.

(We think again) of glowing defeat that by all human measure no victory can emerge. But when we study the escape from Egypt, Ex. 4:10 and then we cross the Red Sea and listen to the song of deliverance, Ex. 15:1, we are confident that God gives a song in the night of darkest defeat.

2. The night of darkest temptation. We feel that Christ will give us a song of victory even when we are faced with our most dreaded temptation. (Christ temptations) with the devil for forty days and night and yet he emerges with a song. This is why he is able to give us the promise that he will help us also to emerge with a song.

(Psalm 40:2-3) (David) tells how that he was in the night of temptation down in the very pit and God lifted him out and gave him a new song and sent him on his way singing

and praise as an exile on the Isle of Patmos.

We have a sterling example of how God will give us a song in the night when we look upon Jesus and there was no night so dark as the night just before he went out to face the cross. After partaking of the last supper Jesus sang (a hymn) before going out to certain death. We are inclined to think that Jesus joined in this song of faith and courage in this hour or despair. Before he left the upper room we are told he went singing.

6. The Night of Sin - in the dark night of sin God will give us (a song of forgiveness and of deliverance.) Many times we say, but (what) does the Christian have to sing about, but they have the song of Moses and the lamb. They have a song that was given them through God's grace. How precious God has been. Therefore, (David) said, "I will sing of thy mercy and judgement, unto thee, O Lord will I sing." There is nothing in all the world that can give a song as the forgiveness of sin through God's grace. To be aware of your (sinful condition) and then to remember with confidence that you have a redeemer. (David) said when he went down to face the giant, "The Lord hast delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear." Then

he remembered he will deliver me out of the hands of the Philistine." Dear friend, the Christian has something to sing about because he has been delivered from his sins. Are you troubled on every side. Are you perplexed. Are you cast down. The Christian is not distressed or despair or destroyed and the Christian knows that all of the nights will be over one day. There will be a song given for the everlasting day. Do you have a song in your heart. Is there something in your life that has (stopped the music). Are there careless habits or indifference. Have you been neglecting some duty. Have you been failing the church. There is a song of the Lord and everyone should sing it. Why not join Job in giving allegiance to the one who gives songs in the night.

"He smiteth me"

He is Beverly Billy Graham + Sam
 She - Ken - Father
 walk to where was + said "I think tonight in
 the night" + Beverly said "I do too"
 walked aisle + proposed + said -
 Song 1 -

5. The Night of Death - In our night of death he comes to give us a song of life as a distinguished Christian (woman) once said, when she was told that her (two sons) were drowned, "I see, oh Lord, thou art determined to have all my heart and I am determined thou shalt have it". In (Job) 19:25-27 we read of of this song that he gives us in the night of death. Also in 2 Tim. 4:6. When we come to this hour of darkness, God gives his saints a song of cheer them as recorded in 1 Cor. 15:15. Death and he puts in their the neverending song of Moses and the lamb. So you see there is no night too dark but that God gives a song, as (a widow) who want back home where death had come. The head of the house had gone and she began to sing, "Lead kindly light, amid the encircling gloom,

Lead thou me on,

The night is dark and I am far from home,

Lead thou me on."

And with the morn those angel faces smile,

Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile."

Someone said, "I am rejoicing to hear you singing."

She said, ("I must sing now, I must sing now".) We are to sing whatever the conditions and especially in this hour of darkness. We have many examples. (John) sang songs of joy

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