

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Request: “I read the following statement and thought it would make a good topic for Tuesday night bible study:
“You may not be able to control what happens TO you, but you can control what happens IN you.”

“What’s happening?” is a question often used to introduce a casual conversation. The usual casual answer is “not much” “what about you?” We call this small talk. But what happens when someone like Peter takes the question seriously?

In our lesson text, Peter was concerned that what was happening TO believers might hinder their walk and witness IN the Lord. Peter addressed it in a sermon entitled; “This finds favor with God.” We will study this sermon by the following five homiletical points.

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| 1. Conscience | bear-up (hupophero) under unjust suffering (1 Pet.2:19) | This finds favor with God! |
| 2. Credit | endure (hupomono) harsh treatment patiently (1 Pet.2:20) | This finds favor with God! |
| 3. Calling | undeserved suffering (1 Pet.2:21a) | This finds favor with God! |
| 4. Christ | suffered as a substitute for every believer (1 Pet.2:21b) | This found favor with God! |
| 5. Copy | example to follow (1 Pet.2:21c) | This finds favor with God! |

**This lesson will study FOUR aspects of the lesson on What’s Happening?
It will focus on the idea that you may not be able to control
what happens TO you but you can control what happens IN you.**

1. When David ask Abigail, “What’s happening?” She unloaded her burden to him (1 Sam.25:23-31).

Abigail shows that sometimes the spiritual mature believer may be able to control what happens TO her when she learns to control what happens IN her. **This finds favor with God!**

Note David’s response to Abigail – “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me, and blessed be your discernment, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodshed, and from avenging myself by my own hand. Nevertheless, as the Lord God of Israel lives, who has restrained me from harming you, unless you had come quickly to meet me, surely there would not have been left to Nabal until morning light as much as one male. So David received from her hand what she had brought him, and he said to her, ‘Go up to your house in peace. See, I have listened to you and granted your request.’” (1 Sam.25:32-35).

David shows that sometimes the spiritual mature believer may be able to control what happens to him when he learns to control what happens in him. **This finds favor with God!**

2. When the sailors ask Jonah, “What’s happening?” He unloaded his burden to them (Jonah 1:6-12).

Jonah shows that when the reversionistic believer can’t or won’t control what happening IN him, he may be unwilling to control what’s happening TO him. “Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will become calm for you, for I know that on account of me this great storm has come upon you.” (Jonah 1:12)

Jonah also show that the reversionistic believer can control what is happening TO him when he is willing to control what is happening IN him (Jonah 2) [prayer]. **This finds favor with God!**

“Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the stomach of the fish, and he said, ‘I called out of my distress to the Lord, and He answered me.’” (1 Pet.2:1-2)

“Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.” (1 Pet.2:10)

3. When Job's friends ask him, "what happening?" He unloaded his burden to them:

"I loathe my own life; I will give full vent to my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul."
(Job 10:1)

"I was at ease, but He shattered me, and He has grasped me by the neck and shaken me to pieces; He has also set me up as His target." (Job 16:12)

Job shows the importance of the spiritual mature believers controlling what's happening IN him when he is unable to control what is happening TO him.

"Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God." (Job 1:22; 2:10) **This finds favor with God!**

From divine viewpoint, **what's happening** was undeserved suffering in AC and an opportunity for God to boast – "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." (Job 1:8; 42:7-8, 10)

4. When those attending the crucifixion of Jesus ask, "what's happening?" Jesus unloaded His burden to us:

"Reproach has broken My heart, and I am so sick. And I looked for sympathy, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none. They also gave Me gall for My food, and for My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink." (Ps.69:20-21) [Messianic prophecy]

- Suffering – reproach has broken (shabar/ kal pf) My heart
- Sick – I am sick
- Sympathy – there was none
- Support – I found none
- Sinister – gall for food and vinegar for drink

"They gave Him wine to drink mingled with gall; and after tasting it, He was unwilling to drink." (Matt.27:34)

- Jesus is the classic example of the importance of cycling BD to the human experience so that what's happening TO you is consistent with what's happening IN you. **This finds favor with God!**

"For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps." (1 Pet.2:21)