

## **“Overcoming Trouble”**

John 11:1-16

Of all the characters in the Bible, few suffered as much as the man, Job. In fact, his situation was so bad that his wife urged him to “curse God and die.” And then, his friends, who came to comfort him ended up accusing him of ungodly behavior! One of them said, “*For affliction does not come from the dust, nor does trouble spring from the ground; yet man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward.*” Yes, that’s true, trouble and pain are an inescapable part of our existence.

But like Job, we are not without hope. Praise God! Job was so confident in God’s care for him that he said, “even if he kills me, I will still trust Him!” And Job had a firm belief in the resurrection of the body too. He knew that trouble wouldn’t ultimately be victorious.

Hello friend, I’m J. Mark Horst, your host and I welcome you to *Hope for Today*. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, we’re an international Gospel media ministry. Each week the Bible teaching broadcasts of *Heralds of Hope* circle the globe in English and 21 other major languages. Thousands are tuning in each week to receive spiritual nourishment and blessing. And we’re glad you’ve joined us today!

But radio ministry is just one part of what we do at Heralds of Hope. We also distribute Bibles and literature. And our newest publication is called *Hope Herald*. It is a study guide that is designed to complement the teaching you’re hearing on this broadcast. We would be happy to send a copy of this study guide to you if you just write and ask for it. Stay tuned and I will give you the contact information at the end of the program.

On today’s broadcast of *Hope for Today*, we’re continuing our study in the Gospel of John So, I urge you to stay tuned. In just a few moments, Dr. Yoder will present today’s teaching, “Overcoming Trouble.”

Because we have limitations, we often face troubles. Our humanity is the source of much of our trouble. We are bound in this body and because we have the limitations of our human nature, many of our troubles arise.

There is another reason why we have trouble. We have a common enemy, the devil. For that reason we all face trouble. Yes, my friend, I sincerely believe the Bible teaches us that we do have a common enemy, the devil, and for that reason we face trouble.

I rejoice to tell you there is a way to overcome trouble. Even though you may be going through very hard trouble right now, there is hope for your help. I'm glad to tell you that there is hope for help.

In John 11:1-16 let us see where two sisters went for help in OVERCOMING TROUBLE.

- 1 *Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.*
- 2 *(It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)*
- 3 *Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.*
- 4 *When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.*
- 5 *Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.*
- 6 *When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.*
- 7 *Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again.*
- 8 *His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?*
- 9 *Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.*
- 10 *But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.*
- 11 *These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.*
- 12 *Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.*

13 *Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.*

14 *Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.*

15 *And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.*

16 *Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow-disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.*

From our text I gather several COUNSELS which should help you and me in overcoming our troubles.

The first counsel is **Send for Help**.

Here in this home of Mary and Martha a very serious problem arose. Trouble overshadowed that home because their brother was sick, very sick. It came right close to them. And Lazarus was close to our Lord because they said, “He whom you love is sick”.

Here was a need, a very deep need. They were passing through great trouble. How would they overcome that trouble? Well, one counsel is to send for help when the need arises. So they sent for help. They sent a call to Jesus. They said, “He whom you love is sick”.

Jesus was a loving friend. The Bible tells us that Jesus loved Mary and Martha and Lazarus. So they sent for help. They sent to the right place for help. They sent to One who really cares.

My friend, why do you bear your trouble alone? Like these sisters you, too, can send for help. Believe me, Jesus will respond to your need as well. You can say, “Lord, he whom you love is in trouble,” and Jesus will pay attention to your need.

A second counsel is **Consider the Opposition**.

So, Jesus, after He had waited several days, said, “Let us go into Judea again.” But the disciples immediately warned Him about the opposition, “Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?” Your life is at stake, Master. And Jesus said just watch

how you walk. If you walk in the daytime, you will not stumble. If you walk in the nighttime you cannot see and you will stumble because you have no light in you.

What I want you to see is that Jesus considered the opposition, yet His response was, “Let us go”. Later He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.” The disciples thought He was talking about rest and sleep. But He said, “Lazarus is dead. I am going to help these sisters.” Jesus considered the opposition and with determination said, “I am going to help them.”

Friend, take this counsel in overcoming trouble: look at the opposition and then go forward. That’s the way Jesus did. He went forward in spite of the opposition and what it might mean.

A third counsel comes to us like this: **Face the Danger.**

When the disciples thought that Jesus referred to Lazarus’ rest and sleep, He said plainly to them, “Lazarus is dead.” But He said, your faith is going to grow; I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe.” Here Jesus stated the stark reality: Lazarus is dead, but I am going so that your faith may grow.

Then I hear Thomas say to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him”. This is a kind of resignation. A resignation that meant that they were going to go along with Jesus no matter what the danger might be. My friend, take this counsel in overcoming your trouble: face the danger with resignation and go on through with it.

These counsels will help you overcome troubles: first, send for help; second, consider the opposition; third, face the danger. These counsels are most helpful when you know Jesus Christ as your personal helper. He is the One to send for and He is the One who will help you.

My friend, have you found Jesus as your help in trouble? As I said at the beginning of the program, trouble is an inescapable part of our human existence; we can’t avoid it completely. As followers of Christ, we understand that our troubles are not without meaning. In every experience of life, God has a purpose in our struggles. He is working all things for good to those who love Him. That is a wonderful, wonderful promise!

Now, if you were blessed by this teaching and would like an audio CD or a printed copy of it, just write and ask for the teaching “Overcoming Trouble.” We would be happy to send a copy to you as soon as we receive your request.

The quickest way for you to contact us is to send an e-mail to [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). That e-mail address is [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, “Overcoming Trouble.” We’d be happy to send one to you.

And when you contact us, you can request our newest publication, *Hope Herald*. It is a study guide that follows these radio programs and will help you learn more about what we are studying from John’s Gospel. So, ask for your free copy of *Hope Herald* today.

Here’s the contact information again. The quickest way to reach us is by at this address; [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). Or write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember; you can request a free copy of this teaching, “Overcoming Trouble.” It’s available in print or on an audio CD. And you can also request a free copy of our newest publication, *Hope Herald*. It will help you gain more value from our study in John.

Now, I urge you to tune in next week as Dr. Yoder continues our study from John’s Gospel with an important message titled “Testing the Heart.” You won’t want to miss it. And until then, I urge you to keep looking for that blessed HOPE.