

## 19. Wait Three Days

On a beautiful Easter Monday, an old *flower lady* was sitting in her usual place inside a small archway. At her feet, corsages were spread on open newspaper. She was smiling, her wrinkled old face alive with some inner joy. On impulse, a passer-by said to her, "My, you look happy this morning!"

"Why not?" she answered. "Everything is good." She was dressed so shabbily and seemed so very old that she was asked, "Don't you have any troubles?"

"You can't reach my age and not have troubles," she replied. "Only it's like Jesus and Good Friday. When He was crucified on Good Friday, that was the worst day for the whole world. When I get troubles I remember that, and then I think of what happened only **THREE DAYS LATER**...Easter, and our Lord arising. So when things go wrong, I've learned to **WAIT THREE DAYS**...and somehow things get better." She smiled goodbye.

Troubles, troubles, who of us hasn't experienced troubles of one kind or another? Actually, no one escapes troubles. The Bible says, "Hardship does not come from dust, nor does trouble sprout from the ground; but man is born to trouble..." *Job 5:6f* The unholy trinity, the devil, the world, and our very own sinful nature is the source of all trouble.

What can we do when troubles come? We can heed the advice given in the second stanza of the familiar song, "What a Friend we have in Jesus!" The song asks, "Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?" And then it goes on and we sing the answer, "We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer."

We would do well to join the Psalmist in praying: "Turn to me, and be gracious to me; for I am lonely and afflicted. Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distresses. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins." *Ps. 26:16f* And in *Psalm 88:1f*, "O Lord, my God, I call for help by day; I cry out in the night before You. Let my prayer come before You, incline Your ear to my cry! For my soul is full of troubles."

There's a line in an old Negro spiritual: "Nobody knows the troubles I've seen, nobody knows but Jesus." And whatever our troubles may be, and whenever they come - whether by day or by night - through the power of the Spirit, let us strive to take our hearts and minds off our troubles and instead *focus them on Jesus*, Who not only knows our troubles, but is able and willing and anxious to help us in every time of need. With out-stretched arms and a loving heart He bids us: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor Me." *Psalm 50:15* Without question, "The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble." *Psalm 9:9*

The old flower lady knew - whatever troubles we have are seen in perspective when we consider the three days that the first disciples waited for the resurrection. We wait, too, and the Risen Lord takes all of our troubles and assures us that He will never leave us or forsake us.

Having troubles? Wait three days!

# Wait Three Days

## We Begin

Leader (L) and Group (G)

- L: We begin in the name of Him Who is the Resurrection and the Life,  
G: In the name of Jesus, our Savior.

## We Search Scriptures - Psalm 25:1-5,(15-16),20-21

Two individuals or groups= (1), (2)

- 1: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.  
2: Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.  
1: My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.  
2: Guard my life and rescue me; let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in you.

## We Meditate

Follow this outline as the meditation is presented

The flower lady's wisdom: "WAIT THREE DAYS"  
Good Friday through Easter: what a three-day change!  
Troubles are common to us all  
How to deal with troubles:  
    "Take it to the Lord in prayer."  
    "Turn to me and be gracious to me."  
    "Let my prayer come before you."  
Jesus promises to hear us and help us:  
    "Call upon Me in the day of trouble."  
    "The Lord is a refuge."  
Having troubles? **WAIT THREE DAYS!**

## We Respond

- L: It is not easy to wait.  
G: I wait for the Lord, and in His Word I put my hope.  
L: We want answers, we want help, and we want them NOW!  
G: I wait for the Lord, and in His Word I put my hope.  
L: Like the disciples on the first Easter, there is joy awaiting those who wait for the Lord's blessings.  
G: I wait for the Lord, and in His Word I put my hope.  
L: Best of all, we have the blessings of heaven awaiting us.  
G: I wait for the Lord, and in His Word I put my hope.  
  
L: Give us patience and trust to wait for Your will to be done.  
G: I wait for the Lord, and in His Word I put my hope.

## We Pray

We come to Your throne of grace with confidence, dear Lord. We know that You overcame sin, Satan, and death itself on that glorious third day after Your death. We know that You also have the power and the desire to help us in our times of need. We trust Your promises, loving Lord, and we praise You for keeping them. Amen.

