

March 19. Trials Leading us to Christ

J.R. Miller:

"When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to Him and begged Him to come and heal his son, who was at the point of death." John 4:47

The trouble in his home "sent this man to Christ. Perhaps he would have never have gone at all" had it not been for his son's sickness. Many of those who went to Christ in the olden days "were driven by their distress of heart. They tried everything else first" and then when all else failed, they hurried to Jesus.

The same is true in these days. Many people who have never prayed before "have gotten down upon their knees by the bedside of their sick and dying children, and cried to God on their behalf. Many people have first been sent to God "by their own troubles. It was not until the prodigal was in great poverty, and every other resource had been exhausted" that he said he would arise and go to his father. Many sinners never think of Christ "until they are in despair under the sense of guilt. Not until they see the storm of wrath gathering, do they seek the shelter of the cross. But what a comfort it is that even going so late to the Savior "He does not reject or cast away those who come!

We ought to remember always, that when any trouble comes to us, whatever other purpose it may have "it is certainly intended to send us anew to Christ. Perhaps we have drifted away from Him, or grown careless, or lost our first love. The trouble that touches us "is the merciful hand of God laid on us, to lead us back to our place of safety and blessedness at His side!

A man was traveling and was hungry "but did not know where to go to find food. A sudden and violent storm came up, compelling him to seek shelter. Fleeing under a tree for refuge, he found not shelter only "but food "for the storm brought down fruits from the tree's branches for his hunger. Those whom trouble drives to Christ "also find both shelter from the storm, and food to meet their cravings!