

# A wounded Servant

Sermon presented by Thabang Mamogale

We have physical wounds, which are visible, but some wounds are not visible. The invisible ones are the dangerous ones because nobody can see them.

Some people are wounded by comparing themselves with others. Through comparing with others, they realise they are lacking or not good enough. This leaves wounds in their hearts. It affects their self-image; they can't face other people because they think they have limitations and that they are not good enough.

Some people are raised in abusive families, which left wounds in their lives.

We have wounded servants in our homes. We find wounded servants in the house of the Lord. From the outside, these servants look okay but inside they are wounded. They are not well. They smile and they are cheerful but they carry the pain inside them.

## Scripture reading

Job 13: 15

“Though He slay me, I will trust in Him and I will maintain my ways in Him”

James 1: 2-4

Consider it pure Joy when ...

Tough times are there for all of us. They are not for specific people but we all experience them at some point in our lives.

Much as some of these servants are wounded, they carry the Holy Spirit inside of them. They make sure they move forward with the task. They see to it that the mandate of God is carried out.

In the book of Job, we learn about Job who was wounded. His friends were giving him advice after he had lost everything. Job's friends gave him options. Some even said he had sinned and God was punishing him for his sins.

Indeed, sinners get punished for their sins, but the Righteous are tested. When tuff times come, the world will offer you many options. Hence, David once said; one things he desires is to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life. The world offers many things, but David chose to dwell in the house of the Lord.

When you are a faithful servant of God, you do not need to sin for God to test you. Job understood one thing that his friends did not understand. He knew he had not sinned and He was willing to stand in front of God and state his case. He decided not to complain. When you complain, it is all about you, it is about your anger and the things you see. However, when you state your case, your thoughts take control, your emotions are involved. You reason with God.

Some of us need to be slayed so we can find ourselves in front of God to see if we are righteous. To see whether we can be as confident as Job and reason with God. Some of us need to be slayed so we can start living our lives in a way that God expects of us. If you stood in front of God, would He see the same thing He saw in Job. When you are faithful, you are confident in front of God.

When you are going through tuff times, you must know that your trials had to go through God before coming to you. You must understand that your trials are meant to strengthen your faith. You must crack first before God is able to use you. Job was a faithful servant. Much as he was a faithful servant, he had to go through trials.

We tend to think that God is a God of specific people who do not have to go through trials. We think God is for the rich. We even say money goes to those who have money. We think trials are meant for poor people. But God is for us all. He gives strength to the weary, He restores hope. He is God in Tshwane. The same God who led the children of Israel to the Promised Land is the same God who is here today and He is for us all. We all have blessings; the difference is that those who are experiencing their blessings have activated their blessings. What are you willing to do to activate your blessings?

Every Sunday when we come to church, we come to heal wounds and to be restored. God has a way of restoring things and making them new again.

#### **Four point to help us when we are going through tuff times:**

1. **Stop the victim mentality** – Romans 8:28 – All things work together for those who are called by his name. Stop asking why me. The word of God says all things work together for the goodness of those who love him. When you go through trials, learn to say thank you because it is only temporary and God will never leave you alone. In Isaiah, God says when you walk through water, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire, He will be with you. Know that when you go through trials, you are walking with God and when you walk with God, you see things you could not see, and you hear things you could not hear.
2. **Remember when you first started to believe** – When you going through tuff times, remember the day you accepted Jesus. David says, before I was afflicted I went astray but today I am no longer afflicted because I know and keep your word. You must remember the day you accepted God and started believing in Him because the faith you had that day is not the same today. Your friends were not there, you were on your own. The feeling you felt that day is the most important which you need to tap into each time you go through trials. Even though you are faithless, He remains faithful.

3. **Seek Joy instead of happiness** – Consider it pure Joy or an opportunity when times like these come. Tangible things influence happiness. Happiness can be here today and be gone tomorrow. It depends on what happens in that moment. It does not last long. Joy comes from the inside. Even if everything you own is taken away, Joy will remain. Joy comes from God and Joy will always conquer. Joy will always remain because you trust in the Lord. You do not need someone else to give you Joy because it comes from the inside.
  
4. **Stay committed to the Lord** –“Though He slays me but yet I will maintain my ways in the Lord”. When going through trials, say, I will continue moving forward, I will continue growing your kingdom. Job Says he will stay committed to the Lord, even when things are not making sense, even when times are hard, even when he loses everything, I will stay committed to the Lord. When we go through tuff times, there are many options. You need to stay committed. Fathers you need to stay committed in the lives of children. You do not need money to be in your child’s life. Your presence can make a lot of difference. When we talk commitment, we talk actions. You must maintain what the Lord has asked of you. Do not change because situations change.

There was a story of a woman whose husband was infertile. In some cultures if you are infertile, your brother comes into your house and bears children with your wife. Do not dilute God’s matters with culture. Stay in the commitment. God will take care of the rest. If things go wrong, when you remain committed, God will mend things for you. Stay committed even when things do not go your way. Whenever God allows something, it comes with a promise. What is binded on the alter, God favours it. Whatever is before you, God will take care of it. Sarai and Abram maintained their commitment and God blessed them with a child at in old age.

**Stay committed to the course. Because God is God for us all.**