

① WHEN YOUR HOUSE TUMBLES IN

Jer. 12:5

- (1) A young ministerial student found a little church in new England that had been closed for a long time. He found some of the deacons and opened the church and everyone was delighted. They cleaned the building and while they were dusting a man came in the door, looked the church over and asked what kind of church is this? The preacher said this is just a church that everybody is welcome to worship in, I am preaching here this summer. The next question was, Well can you preach? He replied, No. I haven't had much experience, I'm just starting out. The stranger then said, "I am an F. B. I man, I'm up here with President Coolidge. He sent me out to find a church where he could worship. Save us a few seats down front, There will be about 20 of us. So the F. B. I. man went out and the preacher stood trembling, perspiration pouring off of him. He had 5 sermons. So he slipped back to his room, spread them all out before him and put them all together in one sermon. That Sunday morning, sure enough, the president was there. At the close of the service the F. B. I. man came up, shook hands and said "It was fine, the president asked me to tell you that's the best sermon he has heard in many months. He'll be up here for 5 weeks, He'll be here every Sunday. The young preachers knees gave way and he sat down on the nearest bench. The young man grew and grew and Coolidge told him at the end of the 5th Sunday that God had used him beautifully.
- (2) A bad sight to see is a house caved in ---
- (3) About 5 years ago I visited an old farm in Currituck county - the husband had died years ago and the widow and children had moved away to the city. No one had kept the house in repair. Around on the back of the walls of the back bedroom and the roof were in a heap. The main body of the house leaned in it's weakest direction. Sections of the roof had tumbled in. I looked and all the framework had passed repair. Here one could review the past and recognize that this had once been home for a family, but know the whole house had tumbled in, it would require a new foundation, new walls, yes a new building to restore the house.

- (4) Four weeks ago I watched the house next door to our church tumble in, the roof was first - that looked bad. Then the sides, a ragged sight. The floors and chimnies, portches and all carched in! The whole house tumbled in.
  - (5) The scene reminded me of a heathen temple scene one day. A great crowd had gathered to make fun of God. A blind man had been put into the midst. The boy had placed his hands upon might pillows. Samson pulled down the pillows and the whole building tumbled in. This meant distruction for the whole crowd.
  - (6) Two houses are described - one man build upon - rocks and the storms came, but the house stood. The other was built upon the sand, and the storms came and the house tumbled in - This meant distruction for the whole crowd.
  - (7) These illustrations present to us a Portrait of life. Life seems to tumble in upon us once in a while. We feel that everything is all set - just right and then over night it colaspes. When your life tumbles in what are you doing to do?
  - (8) Suppose out of the blue sky there leaped dreadful tidings and disaster? Here is a wealthy man, enjoying prosperity, pleasures of a good family, a devoted worshiper of God. Then one day a tide of disaster swept over this man's whole life. The roof tumbled in. Master, your cattle, livestock has been destroyed. Master, your children have been killed, Job sits out covered with disease while all of life tumbles in. Would you have the grit to pull yourself together and face it as Job did?
- Dr. Roy Angel in his book "Iron Shoes", tells a story about a woman he met in Baton Rouge, La. She told him a story that she and her husband were superintendents for two great schools, one for the blind and one for the deaf. After her husband died she served as superintendent for both of these institutions. She said, You know I wonder just what bearing it has that I lost both of my children when they were tiny little things and my heart full of love for children has gone out to these little sightless, unhearing, unspeaking children, until I love them until they are like my own. Dr. Angel said "I believe God helped this great



- 3) trusting spirit to go on even though the house had tumbled in.
- (8) For yrs. and years you and I go our sunny way and live happy lives. We hear remours of these terrors and then one day it happens to us. Heavns just as sensitive as yours and myne experience this daily -  
But when your house tumbles in ?
- (9) So many people's reigion is a fair weather affair. A little rain, and it crumbles, a strain and it snaps We unite with a church to be sociable one that sanctions all of our worldly pleasures:  
When this path crosses the cold places where the winds cut and pierce the way home.--  
One day Jesus will say "Behold your house is left into you desolate."
- (10) The most drastic test of sorrows, physical and mental agony -  
In the Readers Digest, Mrs. William Wallace, a few years ago, told an experience of how God uses hardships. I came into the Dr. Office to get my three robust, hearty boys their regular shots before school started. They were romping up and down the hall and I say down in the doctor's waiting room. Across the room in the corner was a little girl with 2 crutches. One leg was in a brace - infantile paralysis - but her face wore a happy smile. Hardly had I taken my seat when she said, "I'm going to walk without my crutches." The Dr. just told me so. He just promised me I could walk without my crutches in a few weeks and I'm so happy I just can't wait!  
"Bless your heart, I'm so glad for you". I answered. Just then the door to the inner office opened and the Dr. and the mother came out followed by a little boy. I looked at the mother, feeling sort of sorry for her, then at the boy, and when I saw that he had a withered hand I thought. "Oh, No, God, you didn't give one mother two of them. No, you couldn't do that, God". Meg came over, took Pete's hand and they all left laughing.

- 4) Immediately I said to the Dr. and I walked into his office. "Dr. a mother with 2 like that, poor woman my heart bleeds for her." He said "Wait a minute, listen to this, one day, he continued, a young girl and a young boy were visiting a patient in the same hospital. They met fell in love and were married. They asked me to find a little girl. We want to adopt her". Dr. don't find us a beautiful, healthy girl, find us one that has a handicapped, one that no one else wants. I found Pete for them, they found Meg themselves, and now they have ask me to find another. So God uses these two people to take care of those who needed help.
- 11) Faith Still trust God usshaken when evidence is dark. The Christian Digest contains an article by George Strongbeck. He said I passed a jewery store in a big city. I saw a diamond cutter through the window. He had a pile of ugly shapeless stones on the table by his machine. They looked to be just ordinary stones that you would have picked up along the road. In front of him was a small machine made of 2 disc about the size of a dinner plate. As I watched him remove the top one, I saw 6 beautiful held by small sunken clamps. The diamond cutter took out each stone and examined it with his magnifying glass and then clamped it back into place. Then he picked up a box of diamond dust, the hardest cutter in the world. He sprinkled the diamonds liberally with it, when he had replaced the top disc he turned on the power and it began to rotate. As I watched I realized he was using this diamond dust to shape and polish those dirty uglas stones and make scintillate and glow so they would be fit for a firl's engagement ring. It rang like a bell, there is a great truth. God uses diamond dust to polish and shape human lives. Some of the hardships, disappointments and frustrations that have come to us are God's diamond dust.
- (12) I do not understand this life of ours, But still less can I comprehend (how people in trouble and loss and bereavement can fling away) from the Christian Faith. Faith works - it is real - it promises are true, No perhaps about the scripture.
- ✓ (13) When our feet slip upon the slimy stones of the swelling Jordan - a Hand leans out to catch us and steady us.



"I will not leave you comfortless".

A picture in the National Gallery, Christ hangs upon the cross in a dense darkness; and at first that is all one sees. But, as one peers into the background, gradually there stands out another form, God's form; and other hands supporting Christ; God's hands; and another face, God's face, more filled of agony even than our Savior's own. The presence, the sufficiency, the sympathy of God, these things grow very real and very sure and very wonderful.

(14) Become more certain about immortality. You think that you believe in that. But wait till you have lowered your dearest into an open grave, and you will know what believing it means.

To The young Heaven is vague --

But as our Friends gather over there, how real and dear it is.

The bottom of the Jordan is sound.

(15) What I'm saying is "Jesus will be with us in life". Nichodemus understood that he could not be saved without the presence of Jesus.

He will be there in the beginning of our Christian Life.

He will be there when we make life's great decisions.

He will choose our friends - life's work

He will be there in Earth's sorrows.

Jesus will be with us in death- Death releases us from this body of flesh.

Jesus will be with us in Eternity. A little child on the beach takes up a hand full of sand and runs down and drops it into the ocean - we might watch the efforts of a child to fill up the ocean. But we know if by a thimblefull of sand at a time it could be filled - eternity would just be starting.

✓ When we have been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun

We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we first begun.