

## Notes on Job 33 : 14 – 18 'Revival' 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Job 33:14-18

<sup>14</sup> For God does speak—now one way, now another though no one perceives it. <sup>15</sup> In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they slumber in their beds, <sup>16</sup> he may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, <sup>17</sup> to turn them from wrongdoing and keep them from pride, <sup>18</sup> to preserve them from the pit, their lives from perishing by the sword.

Good morning, everybody. How are you all doing? By show of hands. Who's Feeling good? Feeling comfortable? Great! I'm going to ruin that for you...

Today I'm going to tell you a really interesting story, and it's not someone in the Bible. For this, we're going to go all the way back to December 1913.

Now looking at all your beautiful young faces, I think it's safe to say that none of us were alive all the way back in 1913. But one man was. Duncan Campbell.

Duncan Campbell, having been born in 1898 was a strapping young 15-year-old laddie from bonnie Scotland. To get us in the mood for the story, were going to have a go at insulting all our Scottish family but please do go easy, I have to live with one of them. Okay. I want you to name me some typical Scottish things. Sorry Sian, sorry Ross. attacking your spouse or your brother-in-law for insulting your home country isn't an answer. Can anyone Name me some typical Scottish food, or drink or sport. How about a musical instrument? Bagpipes. Brilliant.

So, yes. Young Duncan was a wee piper in his hometown of Black Crofts.

That's up near Oban. Fort William, Glencoe kind of way. Properly out in the sticks. Although Duncan's parents were praying people, Duncan most certainly was not. So, December 1913 rolls around and young Duncan is set to play his bagpipes at a party. As part of the dance, he played a song called "The green hills of Tyrol". Would you agree, we're extremely fortunate to have all of these beautiful hills and nature around us here in Derbyshire? Yes?

Now I don't mean to put a downer on what God has given us here or play a game of the other man's grass is greener but, this area of Scotland that young Duncan was from and it is a contrast to the green hills of the Tyrol in Austria which the song is aptly named after. So, with all this beauty surrounding him, it would be fair to guess that this is what Duncan envisioned as he played "The green hills of Tyrol on his bagpipes. But no. As he played, his young mind was transported and he saw Calvary. Duncan was so deeply and profoundly affected by this experience that he left the dance immediately and didn't even take the time to pack away his bagpipes.

On his trek home at around 11pm, he walked past a memorial hall. Now, he was surprised when he looked up and saw the building illuminated at such a late time, and this is when he heard a voice he recognised. His own dad was in prayer with others. With that, he left his bagpipes and swords at the back of the hall and went in to join them.

The passage that was being read from that late night was the one we heard earlier; Job 33 : 14 – 18. Just as a short side note for those who don't know

Job was an entirely righteous man. Can any of you remember what righteous means? Brilliant, it means right with God. So, Job was blameless and upright. He feared God and shunned evil. Job was so faithful in fact, that satan got God to agree to let him test Job. Satan was convinced that if God let him take all away from Job that Job would turn from God. So, he took everything from Job. He took all his flocks of animals, all his servants. Even his children. But even through all of this, Job stuck to his faith and because of his firm faith, his wife turned from him and left as she couldn't bear to see him worship after so much bad had happened. The particular part of Job we've read from today is a reply from Elihu to Job's final statement where he calls God out and demands that He show up personally to explain all the suffering he's been put through. Elihu goes on to

hypothesise to Job that although God is fully just and runs the world according to Justice, that He could use suffering to turn people away from future sin as it builds character. Elihu doesn't claim to know why Job is suffering so much. He is sure however that Job is wrong to accuse God of being unjust.

Now, back to our story. Earlier when we heard the passage, it was read in more modern linguistics. However, seen as we're in 1913, let's hear it again from the Authorised Version and this time, we'll hear just one verse in particular that really stood out to Duncan on that night. That verse was verse 14. "For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not." Do any know someone like that, as stubborn as a mule. They say, "Oh well, you know. If I get a sign from God then I'll believe. But blatant signs come right before them and they're super desperate not to leave the life they have. They don't want to turn from the sin that they're busy enjoying. They either try to ignore it or explain it away? Well, when Duncan heard this passage, there was no way for him to do that. He was overcome with conviction. He knew in his heart that this word was specifically for him, but he didn't want to make a show of himself and disturb the meeting, so he left to go home.

On his way home he was overcome by the same conviction, so much so that he literally dropped to his knees in tears in the middle of the street. Would any of you guess what time it was when Duncan finally made it home? It was well past your bedtime, he finally got home at 2am. Strangely, he found his mum still awake and, on her knees, praying. They spoke over what had happened and she advised that Duncan go to the barn, pray to God and tell Him what he had just told her. So, Duncan surrendered to God and prayed this prayer. "Lord, I know not what to do. I know not how to come, but if you will take me as I am, I am coming now." He was swept over with life anew. He was born again. Made an entirely new creature. I can definitely personally attest to this kind of experience as I'm sure many of you can. Life and its desires completely flipped upside-down and a sudden drive to live right by Him is installed.

After this we actually skip forward quite some time with Duncan. As many young men did, he served during The Great War. I'll save you the gruesome detail, but he was injured in this time and while he was in the hospital he found himself reignited with his love for God. He lay in his hospital bed reciting psalms, and went on to bring about the faith of 7 Canadian soldiers and they accepted Christ as their King and Saviour. He was then transported to a hospital in Scotland where he helped show countless doctors, nurses and patients the light, walked them down the path of righteousness and helped them come to faith. This was just the start of his time as an evangelist.

Now you may be wondering 'why I'm telling you all this?' You might be thinking, 'That couldn't ever be me, I'm not brave enough.' Don't worry. If that's you, I'll get to you. You might be thinking 'Even if I wanted to, I don't know enough to tell people about Jesus, I don't have the right words to say.' Duncan considered exactly this. He considered training, but that would take 5 maybe 7 years! Then he decided to take a short cut. He thought, why do all this training when God can bring on revival in a matter of minutes. He did it in me so why not everybody else?

I have my own story to tell. If I'm not going to tell them scripture, then I can tell them my testimony and what happened to me! So, with his parents' permission, he went out and spoke of Jesus. He spoke of His love. He spoke of His grace and let the people know. If He saved me, He can save you too. He went on to be a missionary, serving in Northern Ireland and all over the Highlands of Scotland and he ended up seeing the Mid Argyll revival which was an offshoot of the Yarmouth/Lowestoft fishermen's revival in the 1920s where thousands came to faith.

After a while, he wanted to get married and decided to settle down into full time ministry and so he trained and was ordained. As he puts it, his faith "dipped". Now, again, for those who don't know, evangelicals of the faith mission take no guarantee of income. They place their wellbeing solely in

the hands of God. They did it then and they still do it now. How would that make you feel, living like that? It's okay to feel like you'd worry about it a bit. You know something though, I also lived like that in a way. When I left my job at Citroën, I had nothing to back me up other than God. When I handed my notice in, it was a total leap of faith. At that time, I had a Sian, a Dylan, a house to pay for. And we also managed to fit a wedding in during that time. I went all the way from August to December without pay and didn't stress about money once. I knew that God had me covered. He had kept giving me signs to take a leap of faith and He gave exactly what we needed as a family to see us through. It was so perfect in fact, that when I received my first pay here, if I had gone just one more week without being paid, I would have been out of money.

Sadly, for Duncan, the decision to move into ministry was a burden on his heart. He had gotten itchy feet and wanting to get married, he wanted to provide a secure household and income for his bride. He saw this move as giving up a little faith in God and felt that he was simply going along with his own fleshly understanding. He didn't enjoy ministry. He didn't like the professors; the doctrine and he didn't like the church of Scotland. He had a great congregation with persistently good numbers, but for 17 years, he felt out of touch with God. But God wasn't done with him.

Something I particularly love about this is that Duncan's faith journey started with a reading of Job and now I don't know about you, but I can definitely see parallels of Job's and Duncan's stories. We heard Duncan tell us how he calls out God and lays down his thoughts. Tells him that he isn't happy with how things are being done, just like Job had done in the chapter before Elihu gives us the passage we heard from today. After this event, Duncan would go back into the missionary field and have huge success. Constantly booked up and is credited with leading the incredible revival on the Isle of Lewis.

Coming up to this revival, the Isle was said to be in a spiritual winter with churches dying out and the ones that were still in session only seemed to be interested in legalism and tradition. There was no life in it. Once Duncan arrived, things really started to take off. An awareness of God gripped the whole community. God seemed to be everywhere! At the beginning, Duncan was in church praying and even though it was 11:00 at night between six and seven hundred people had gathered around the church. They'd been moved by a power they could not explain. A hunger and thirst gripped them and that meeting continued until 4:00 in the morning. On another occasion, a nearby dance was in progress but the young people ran from it, 'as though fleeing from a plague', and made for the church. In a matter of minutes, the dance hall was empty. There are reports of others who had gone to bed and were woken by the Holy Spirit, got dressed, and made for the church. Events like this and more continued. People continued to experience supernatural event that drove more and more to seek God. Duncan was preaching out of this Church here in Barvas. While there it got so that Duncan was continuously preaching 4 to 8 sermons a day often not finishing until 3am. At that time, the Isle of Lewis had a population of around 12,000 people. Out of the 12,000, 9,000 of them were gathered outside this one church, wanting to hear the word of the Lord preached by Duncan. How great it would be to see 75% of the population of Dronfield desperate to hear the word spoken to them, to all be convicted and out seeking God. That would be 15,000 people!

Now for those of you who were and still are thinking, 'That couldn't ever be me, I'm not brave enough.' I told you I'd get to you. This story on the Isle of Lewis didn't start with Duncan. It started with 2 elderly ladies Christine and Peggy Smith. The pair were in their 80's and they were house bound. Christine struggled with severe arthritis and Peggy was completely blind. Unable to attend services in church, they transformed their home into a place of prayer where ministers would visit. Christine and Peggy were deeply upset with the state of decline the faith of the island was seeing and so desperate to see young people come to Christ, they prayed. They prayed and prayed. Three nights per week from 10pm to 3am they would pray for revival. Because of their eagerness and devotion in prayer, 7 church leaders were so moved that they had prayer meetings amongst

themselves specifically praying for revival. For months, nothing seemed to happen, but they kept on going and kept on praying and then it began to happen.

Although Peggy was completely blind, she had a vision of a strange man leading their church and thousands in attendance, and she prophesied over Duncan's coming. When Duncan was first invited, he actually said no. He was too busy. But Christine and Peggy insisted that it was to happen and didn't lose faith in the vision that they had now both received. They knew that Duncan would come and never lost faith in what they felt God had shown to them. Before Duncan came, the small signs of revival began, they noticed others who would be up late at night praying in their houses and eventually some people even began to take to the streets, praying. When Duncan finally arrived, both Christine and Peggy instantly recognised him as the man that God had given them vision of.

So yeah. You might not feel strong enough to stand at the front of the church and preach a sermon. You might not feel strong enough to stand in the street and proclaim the good news to others. But revival starts with you. It starts with you, and you and you and you and me. In Isaiah 44:3 we read: "For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants." Now I don't know about you, but I believe this land is thirstier than ever before. There is such a desperate need for God in all of those around us. Evil runs amok in society, in the powers that be and in media. There is depravity everywhere and so many who are desperate for answers. So, I have a pretty big question for you, the same question that that 16-year-old girl asked her dad all those years ago. When did you last kneel beside a poor sinner and lead them to Jesus? Who can tell me the first thing I said to you after I said good morning, everybody? You might remember me telling you that I was going to ruin your comfort. Well. That time has come.

Hand's up. Who has a mobile phone on them? Get your phone and I want you to send this message to someone. It has to be someone you know doesn't follow Jesus. Send them "I'd love for you to know Jesus. Where are you in your faith?" When you've sent your text or even text's if you're feeling really brave, I want you to hold up your phone. We are going to lift all of these people up to the Lord.

End in prayer.