



Have You Had A Visit from Mr D?

We all receive a visit from time to time from a most unwelcome visitor – Mr D!

What can you do when he pays you a call?

Here are some scriptures that might assist you in making sure that his visit is brief and he leaves in rather a hurry!

Mr. D visits all of Jehovah's servants at one time or another; sometimes it's a short visit and other times it's a lengthy stay.

Is this Mr D the Devil ? No ... it is his good friend **Mr D (ISCOURAGEMENT)**.

Discouragement is one of the most effective tools Satan uses against Jehovah's people.

If we allow Satan's good friend, Mr. D to hang around, he can cause us many problems in our service to Jehovah.

Consider these scriptural examples.

1 Kings 18: 25 - 46

- Vs. 25, 26 – Elijah sets up a test on Mount Carmel between Jehovah and Ba'al. The account tells us that 400+ Ba'al priests go first in offering up the sacrifice to their god.
- Vs. 27 – after they prayed for 6 hours to Ba'al, Elijah begins mocking them saying that may be Ba'al got stuck in the bathroom or he's sleeping and needs woken up. You can hear the sarcasm dripping from his voice!
- Vs 32 - 35 – Elijah reconstructs the alter of Jehovah, placing his offering upon it. Then to add insult to injury he drenchs everything with water. He has 12 large jars of water poured upon the altar. Now, how can you light wet wood?
- Vs. 38 – in a supernatural display of his power, Jehovah answered Elijah's prayer and sent a fire from heaven that ate up everything, including the stones. Elijah must have been on top of the world. And with one command, all 400+ Ba'al priests were put to death.
- Vs 45, 46 – After a 3 ½ year drought, Jehovah again answers Elijah's prayer and brings rain. Ahab gets in his chariot to outrun the storm and be the first to tell his wife, Jezebel, that all of her priests have just been put to death. But Jehovah's hand was upon Elijah, and this prophet who was well into his 70s,

OUTRAN THE CHARIOT FOR 19 MILES. This was no sprint! Imagine Ahab on his chariot going as fast as he can looking to one side and seeing this old man running faster than his chariot thru the mud. Elijah must have felt invincible at this point in his life!

However, look what happens next when Mr D pays Elijah a friendly visit:

1 Kings 19: 1 - 4

- Vs. 2 – Jezebel threatens Elijah, stating that at this time tomorrow he would be put to death just as he did to all her priests.
- Vs. 3, 4 a– Elijah gets scared and flees. He has just faced 400 + men and outran a chariot in the rain, yet one woman caused him to fear for his life. He travelled 115 miles to get away from her.
- Vs. 4b – Elijah sits down under a broom tree, and who sits next to him? Mr. D. After everything he had just experienced, he became so discouraged that he wanted to die."

We ALL experience the emotional roller coaster of life from time to time. We are up one day and then we get a call, a letter, see something, something happens at work, and then we are back in the clutches of Mr D again.

* What happened with Elijah? He lost his perspective. His fear caused him to doubt. When we lose our perspective, we become self - centred and take our focus away from Jehovah.

* So how was the God of Encouragement going to encourage this prophet?

1 Kings 19:5 - 8

- Vs. 5, 6 – Jehovah sent an angel to encourage him. Not once did the angel bring up Elijah's failure or ask him why he ran. Rather he gently touched him and encouraged him to eat. All that Elijah had the energy to do was go back to sleep after he ate the food Jehovah miraculously provided.
- * Isn't this how we feel from time to time? We are just so low that we don't even have the mental energy to even think about getting out of bed, eating or even picking up the Bible to read."
- Vs 7, 8 - The angel awakens Elijah a second time encouraging him to eat and lets him know that Jehovah has another assignment for him. The account mentions that Elijah kept going for 40 days and 40 nights off the power of that one meal. It was no ordinary food!
- * Jehovah didn't throw Elijah away just because Mr. D. came to visit. On the contrary, He gave him another assignment.
- * When we get discouraged, we also need to eat – we need to eat spiritual food. Reading the Bible feeds the mind, but prayer and meditation feeds the heart.
- * Discouragement cannot live where the word of Jehovah roams – in our hearts. When we read the Bible, we are close to Jehovah and we know that things are going to work out and we are going to be okay.

Matthew 6:25, 26, 33

- Vs 25, 26 - We all get anxious. However when we study the birds we notice that they do not sow seed or reap or gather into storehouses. Do they get anxious? No ... because Jehovah takes care of them.
- * When have you ever seen a faithful servant of Jehovah have to beg?
Never and you never will because Jehovah won't allow it.
- Vs. 33 - Jehovah doesn't throw us away when we get discouraged. He has given us an assignment. Seeking first the kingdom involves the preaching work. Preaching gives us a good frame of mind, a positive frame of mind, and it gives us energy and clearer thinking. So after we spend time in the ministry, when we arrive home our problem is not as big as it was when we left, or maybe it is has even gone completely. Jehovah knows the preaching work helps us stay focused. How many angels would have willingly and happily done the preaching work and would have done a better job at it? But He didn't give them the assignment, He gave it to us.
- * Going out in the ministry, conducting Bible studies, listening to others problems and helping them with

their problems, reading scriptures to them to encourage them also encourages us in the process.

Luke 23:27 - 30

- Even though Jesus was going through a terrible ordeal, truly the darkest hours of his life, he turned his focus to others. In that dark time, his mind was looking ahead to the terrible events of 70 C.E. when Jerusalem will be surrounded by Roman armies and the women will be so hungry that they turn to eating their own children. Jesus could not afford selfpity to set in at this point ... he was more concerned about others.
- Hebrews 12:2,3 says that Jesus felt joy. Why did he feel joy despite everything he was going through? Because he was focused on helping others, not on his situation.

Luke 23: 42, 43

- Jesus tells the man next to him that "you will be with me in Paradise". With his last breath in his dying body, Jesus was focused on others.
- How was Jesus able to breathe or speak hanging on that torture stake? He had to push up with his legs to inhale, and when he collapsed back down, he exhaled. Think of how many times Jesus had to do that. Can you imagine all of the splinters he had in his back just to take a breath? Yet, his focus was on giving the man next to him hope."

1 Corinthians 10:13

- Jehovah will not let us deal with more than we can handle. He knows when we cannot take it anymore and He steps in.
- We all have experienced things in our life that we consider miracles – the timing, the manner, whatever it is – it was exactly what we needed and at the right time. While others may not think so, to us was a tiny miracle. And we know that it was Jehovah stepping in and helping us."
- Sometimes Jehovah makes a way out and sometimes He just gives us the strength to endure it. Acts 27:22 - 25, 43, 44
- Vs. 22 - 25 – Paul had faith that Jehovah would save him and all those on the boat. He said that he believed it would be "exactly as it had been told" to him – but he didn't know HOW. So how was Jehovah going to save all 276 onboard?
- Vs. 43 – All those who could swim, were told to jump in and swim to shore. But what about those who could not swim?
- Vs. 44 – As the boat broke apart, Jehovah could possibly have directed planks of wood to those who could not swim to help them keep their heads above water and get them to shore.
- * Jehovah will always direct a "plank" to us – someone or something – to help us keep our heads above water. We just have to recognize that it is from Jehovah and grab onto it. In the congregation, we are all planks ... for one another!

Two experiences to consider:

- **In one territory, an older Italian sister was preaching in an affluent area.** She went to the door and a young, intellectual man came out and said "We don't need that around here [pointing to the Bible]. We live in a push button society –I push a button, I see anything I want; I push another button, I hear anything I want; I push another button, I get anything I want." The older sister replied in her broken English "And when you die and are 6 feet under, what button are you going to push to get out? I know someone who can push that button." (John 5:28-29). The sister then went on to have a very nice discussion and no doubt the sister felt as encouraged as the young man did.
- **An experience about a sister in Kenya.** This sister would travel approximately 16 miles to go to her meetings. She would stay over night at the Kingdom Hall and the next morning would set off for her house. Along her path, she had to cross a river, facing crocodiles, hippos and snakes; and 4 times had been swept away by the currents nearly drowning. Yet she was hardly ever missing from her meetings. She was 72 years old!
- * That sister didn't let discouragement stop her from attending her meetings. The sister valued the meetings and she felt it was worth the effort to get there. When you attend meetings, isn't it true how you may come tired leave ... but with energy? We always get more than we put in when it comes to

Jehovah's service.

We all are going to get a visit from Mr. D from time to time so how can we get rid of him as quickly as possible.

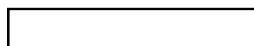
Not by picking up the remote, not by picking up the mouse, not by picking up a worldly magazine or newspaper – but by picking up God's word and reading it .

And if Mr. D is still hanging around, then we need to pick up our ministry bag and get out in to field service and keep as busy and active as possible.

Jehovah is such a wonderful and loving heavenly Father.

He knows when we need that extra boost.

So never let Mr D spoil your day ... a verse or two from God's word will soon send him on his way!



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