

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH

# *THE PIONEER BAPTIST*

*INDEPENDENT • MISSIONARY • ESTABLISHED 1786*

*"Preaching the same truth since before Kentucky was a state"*

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## **21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL MISSION BIBLE CONFERENCE**

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What a blessing our church received as we feasted on God's word and enjoyed the fellowship of our brothers and sisters in the Lord! God's people from all over the country joined with us to worship and praise Him. We are already looking forward to next year, Lord willing!

# A FRAIL LEAF

By: C. D. COLE

**Job 13:25** *"Wilt thou break a leaf driven to and fro?"*

**INTRODUCTION:** Job is the oldest book of the Bible. Human experiences have been the same through all the centuries. The providence of God has always been puzzling to the saints. And the wicked have never believed in one supreme Ruler of the universe. The unregenerate talk about law and luck, but the taught child of God puts his trust in the Lord and sees His hand in his joys and also sorrows.

Job had been reduced to terrible straits. He had lost all earthly comforts, and at times his spiritual comforts were small. But he believed that his sorrows were not accidental but providential, that is, the hand of God was the cause of his troubles. And this in itself was a blessing and token for good. The man who cannot look beyond secondary causes and see that his times are in God's hands, will have no God to turn to in the dark night of sorrow. Job was speaking of God when he said *"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him..."* Job 13:15. He was addressing God when he said. *"Wilt thou break a leaf driven to and fro?"*

These words are appropriate for the saints in the varied experiences of life. The sick saint misuse them when pain is wracking the body. The saint bereaved of loved ones and left like a lonely leaf, realizing that God gives and takes away, may say, *"Wilt thou break a leaf..."* Also, the saint in financial distress when all is gone.

## A CONFESSION OF WEAKNESS

Job compares himself to a leaf - not a green leaf holding nimbly but firmly to a tree; but a sere leaf of autumn, a leaf fallen from a tree and driven to and fro by every gust of

wind. Where is there a more apt symbol of helplessness? What can a dry leaf do? Can it resist the wind? If Job was ever proud and self-sufficient, he has been cured of such a spirit.

"O why should the spirit of mortal be proud?  
Like a fast-fleeting meteor,  
a fast-flying cloud,  
A flash of the lightning, a break of the wave,  
He passes from life to his rest in the grave."

## A CONFESSION OF WORTHLESSNESS

What is a dry leaf worth? A green leaf hanging on the tree may be good for shade, but on the ground, what is it worth? I Corinthians 3:7, *"So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."* II Corinthians 4:7, *"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."* Romans 8:8, *"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."*

## AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY

Wilt thou break a leaf? Job did not question God's right to break him. He did not say, "Thou shalt not break me," but "Wilt thou?" It is hard to get the sinner to admit that he has no claims upon God's goodness. We cannot come before God demanding this or that. We cannot summon God before our court and say, "You must do this or that for me or I will convict you of injustice?" The clay has no rights before the potter. All good that God does for the sinner is through mercy and grace.

"If my soul were sent to hell,  
Thy righteous law approves right well."

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DIVINE POWER

God is almighty. Job knew He could break him. He could no more resist God's power than the ant can resist the elephant, or as a frail leaf can resist the cyclone. God is able to judge this world. Have you ever thought of the tremendous undertaking it will be to judge and punish the teeming billions of human beings? But God will be equal to the occasion. God has many weapons and knows how to use them. All sorts of creatures are referred to in the Bible as His servants and weapons. David

cries in Psalm 17:13, 14, *"...Deliver my soul from the wicked, which is thy sword. From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world..."* In Isaiah 7:20 the king of Assyria is called a razor with which He is

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going to shave Israel. In Matthew 22:7 the legionaries of Caesar are called God's armies with which He destroyed Jerusalem. In Isaiah 44:28 Cyrus, heathen king of Persia, is called God's shepherd and His anointed. And in the day of judgment God will use such weapons as the sun and stars and wind with which to judge the nations and in the end, Revelation 20:15, *"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."*

## A POWERFUL PLEA

*"Wilt thou break a leaf driven to and fro?"* Thou hast the right to, and thou art able to; but wilt thou? I

know thou wilt destroy the proud and haughty, but wilt thou destroy the humble and the weak? Weakness always appeals to strength. A certain town was being sacked and a rough soldier spared a child when it said, "Please sir, don't kill me, I am so little."

The plea is powerful when addressed to the Father. He who gave His Son to die for us will not refuse us when we come to Him as a poor helpless sinner. It is powerful when addressed to God the Son. He who died for us will not turn the poor sinner away who appeals to Him. It is powerful when addressed to the Holy Spirit. He is the Comforter. He will not blast us but bless us.

### THE PLEA IS BACKED BY MANY CASES OF SUCCESS

The dying thief *"said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise,"* Luke 23: 42, 43. He was a frail leaf; helpless; worth less; self-condemned. But the Lord did not break this frail leaf.

John 8:3-11. *"And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last:*

*and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."* Matthew 20:28, *"...the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."*

Matthew 15:21-28, *"Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O LORD, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour."* The important lesson here is that we must appeal to Him on the right basis. She first appealed to Him as the Son of David. But this was to appeal to him on fleshly grounds. It was when she dropped the title Son of David, and said, "Lord, help me," that she was blessed. Jesus saves us not because he is a descendent of David, but because he is God manifest in the flesh. We must come to Him as Lord, taking the place of a sinner even as a dog if we are to be blessed. And He saves us not because we are a member of a certain family or race, but because we take the place of the sinner

and trust him as the Son of God.

Christ is a specialist in salvation. This is the WORK He came to do. He did not die to deliver us from disease, or war, or poverty, or slavery; He died to save us from the wrath to come. He did not die to save us from any temporary suffering; He died to save us from eternal suffering in the lake of fire.

Raphael cried, "I paint." Michelangelo cried, "I build." Homer cried, "I sing." Caesar cried, "I rule." Alexander cried, "I conquered." But *"the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost,"* Luke 19: 10.

*"Wilt thou break a leaf driven to and fro?"* It pays to come to God in prayer. His throne is a throne of grace. Whatever your sorrow is, He will bless you when you come to Him. He may not remove the thorn but He will give grace, and the grace with the thorn is better than the removal of the thorn. Matthew 12:16-21, *"And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

