

A Setback is just a Setup, so that the Lord can Show Up

1 Kings 18:41-46 - ⁴¹ Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of rushing rain." ⁴² So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; there he bowed himself down upon the earth and put his face between his knees. ⁴³ He said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." He went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." Then he said, "Go again seven times." ⁴⁴ At the seventh time he said, "Look, a little cloud no bigger than a person's hand is rising out of the sea." Then he said, "Go say to Ahab, 'Harness your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.'" ⁴⁵ In a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind; there was a heavy rain. Ahab rode off and went to Jezreel. ⁴⁶ But the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; he girded up his loins and ran in front of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel. (New Revised Standard Version)

Giving Honor to God the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. To All of God's Sons, Daughters, and Children. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow. Let's turn to the 1st Book of the Kings, Chapter 18:41-46, as we lift up the Name of the Lord. Our topic is "A Setback is just a Setup, so that the Lord can Show Up."

Good morning Beloved. I've heard some theologians say "It had not rained for years but a cloud about the size of a man's hand was seen."

As we take a look at the text, it allows us to reflect back over our lives, and look at instances where it seems like we were in a lowly state or it may have seemed that the cards of life were stacked against you. Have you ever felt like you were destined for greatness, but you keep getting stuck in the middle of life's situations? Ever found yourself saying, "I know that there is favor but when is it going to be my turn?" I saw him get an opportunity and I saw her get through the door. I don't even need a key or an escort to the door. I just need a chance. Lord, somehow, someday... please get me there... Let me get my foot in the door and I will tear it down. All I need is an opportunity. Please Lord, give me a chance...

Have you ever felt like... You had dreams and high aspirations, but now you feel that you're worn down and you're going through a trial that seems like it's going to last forever?

Have you ever felt like your money was acting funny and that you are living week to week, paycheck to paycheck, and if the truth be told... You are barely making it by?

A wise philosopher once commented that an eagle's only obstacle to flying with speed and ease is the absence of air. Yes, if the air were withdrawn and the proud bird were to fly in a vacuum, it would fall instantly to the ground, unable to fly at all. The very element that offers the resistance to flying is at the same time the condition of flight.

And so are the obstacles we encounter in life. But each one of these obstacles must be viewed as an opportunity to strategize, to execute better and to move forward.

The main obstacle that a powerboat has to overcome is the water pressing against the propeller, yet if it were not for this same resistance, the boat would not move at all.

The same law - that obstacles are conditions of success - holds true in our business. Obstacles wake us up and lead us to use our abilities. Pressure gives us new power. So, out of our difficulties new strength is born.

Have you ever felt like there's pain in your body and the simplistic pain just doesn't seem to want to go away? It lingers there or moves from one spot to the other, and you find that your body parts are under an extended warranty.

Have you ever felt ostracized on the job or in the family? Have you ever been talked about, mistreated, and in the midst of your brokenness you felt like you were all alone, because you couldn't feel the presence of the Lord.

Well, the Lord sent me by to tell you today that a SETBACK, is just a SETUP, so that the Lord can SHOWUP.

According to the dictionary a setback is something that delays progress. Something that reverses or delays the progress of somebody or something.

According to the text; we find ourselves in the midst of an amazing drought. There was no rain, but does anybody know that God will make a way, somehow???

Well, Setup means: The organization of something: the way that something is organized or arranged (A set of prepared objects for a task).

Show Up means: To cause or allow to be seen; display. (To make, be, or become visible or noticeable).

My brothers and sisters, you may be asking the question “Pastor, are there any witnesses that can testify of God’s ability to show up?”

Thank You! I’m glad you asked! Well the first witness is Daniel.

1. Daniel was thrown down in the Lion’s Den. But he had faith in Our God. I read that he had been talked about, lied on, and before you know it, he was experiencing a SetBack. Yes, he was wrongfully accused. Then he was setup... and thrown into the Lion’s Den. But how many know that God showed up and allowed his angel to close the mouth of the Lions.
2. Well the second witness was a lady, who had an issue of Blood. She was bent over and had wasted away her money trying to find a cure for her situation. I can only imagine that she had experienced some major setbacks. And before you know it. She had come to the place where Jesus was. How many people know that a setback will push you to the brink of doing something that you might not would have done before. ** I don’t know about you, but a setback will cause you to sing when you don’t want to sing. A setback will cause you to pray when you didn’t feel like praying. A setback will cause you to cry out even when it feels like nobody is listening or it seems like nobody really cares. A setback will cause you to reach out when it seems like nobody cares. A setback will make you wonder what in the world is Going On. (Good God Almighty!!!) But she found out that her setback was only a setup, and she reached out to touch the hem of his garment. Here the setback was only a setup, that put her in a position to get close to the Lord.*

Well the next set of witnesses consisted of a group of well- known Hebrew Boys: My grandfather would call them Shadrack, Meshack, and a Bad Negro(Abednego). The King Nebuchadnezzar had it as a decree that when you hear the music, that you should bow down and praise him. The conspirators saw the 3 boys and realized that they remained faithful to their God. The God of Heaven and Earth. Well, you know the story. They were convicted, wrongly accused, and Yes... They experienced a setback.

But you all know the story. Their setback was simply a setup, for the Lord to Show Up. It must have been a sight to see. That these men were thrown into a fiery furnace. I can see Shadrack in his new suit, I can see Meshack with a Versace shirt on. I can see Abed-Nego with his gators on. Looking on the outside, you could see these men on the inside. The fire is getting hotter and hotter and yet they are not consumed. Nebuchadnezzar jumps up to look into the fiery furnace, only to realize that the fire won't harm the men. It won't even burn their clothes. But wait a minute, Hold On. Wait a minute... He looks and the realization comes to his mind. That we only threw 3 men in the furnace, but now I see a 4th man and it looks like the son of man. Wait a minute. God showed up. They had a setback, but it was only a setup, and God showed Up. The scripture says, In 1Kings 18:44-46, ⁴⁴ At the seventh time he said, "Look, a little cloud no bigger than a person's hand is rising out of the sea." Then he said, "Go say to Ahab, 'Harness your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.'" ⁴⁵ In a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind; there was a heavy rain. Ahab rode off and went to Jezreel. ⁴⁶ But the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; he girded up his loins and ran in front of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

Have you opened your heart and your life so that the Lord Jesus Christ can show up today? Have you received Him as your Lord, Savior, and the head of your life? The scripture teaches us, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3:16).

In closing, Jesus is the Lilly of the Valley; he's the bright and morning star. He's the Alpha & the Omega. He's the Rose of Sharon. He's the Beginning and the End. He's the Wheel in the Middle of the Wheel. If He has to reach Way Down, Jesus can pick you up. Won't you let the Lord Jesus Christ into your heart today. A Setback is just a Setup, so the Lord can Show Up. If He has to reach way down, Jesus will pick you up.

God Bless You in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

