**RAISING THE DOWNTRRODDEN**

 **Text: Psalms 146: 8**

 The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous:

1. **OPENING MESSAGE:**

There is a God whose delight is in raising those that are forcefully bowed down. The bible says **Psalms 113:7** He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill.

* The downtrodden are those who are brutally oppressed, downgraded and overpowered.
* When you are downtrodden, you are likely to lose your strength.
* When you are downtrodden your voice shall become silent.
* When you are downtrodden your dominion will be taken away.
* When the Israelites were downtrodden in Egypt, they were brutally ruled with brutality.
* But a day came God remembered them and delivered them from the oppressor.

The bible says, in **Micah 7:8** Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me

* ***Therefore, I declare, God almighty shall behold the downtrodden, and they shall arise as a mighty man in Jesus name.***

1. **WHO ARE THE DOWNTRRODDEN?**
2. **The downtrodden are those whom their superior brought low.**

In **Psalms 142:6** *Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low: deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I.*

* From spiritual perspective, the superiors in this context are not stronger than the Psalmist but they are stronger because they occupy the position authority.
* They are stronger because of their influence and affluence.
* They are stronger because of their connection and relationship with people in the higher helms of affairs.
* King Pharaoh maltreated the Children of Israel, he taught he was stronger than they, but a day came God intervened and delivered them.

***Therefore, today, no matter the strength and power of your oppressor, in name the that is above every other name, you are delivered.***

1. **Those who fall for enemy to rejoice.** In **Micah 7:8** *Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.*
* No man prays to fall. And peradventure, if a man eventually falls, he will not want the fall be made known to his enemy.
* However, there is a fall which cannot be covered or hidden. Like absolute desolation of investment, death of loved ones, dethronement or retrenchment etc. all these certainly cause ignominies. When the enemy hears it, he rejoices.
* In **Micah 7:8**, the neighbouring countries (Syria, Edom, Egypt and Philistines) who were the enemies of the Israelites heard about the fall of Judah and Jerusalem, and how they were taken captive to Babylon – absolute desolation. This made the enemy to rejoice.
* Did you fall in the presence of enemy? The word of God says **Proverbs 24:16** *For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again…*

***I command today, you shall arise again.***

1. **Those whose dominion is taken away by other lords.** In **Isaiah 26:*13*** *O LORD our God, other lords beside thee have had dominion over us….*
* Your dominion is your kingdom. Your dominion is your control and ruler-ship ability.
* In fact, your dominion is your kingship and lordship.
* If you lose your dominion, you lose your posterity.
* Loss of dominion automatically subjugates a man to the control of another person.
* This is the reason why Prophet Isaiah cried to God when he saw that the dominion of God’s people had been taken away by other nations.
* But glory be to God, his prayer was answered and God restored the dominion of the Israelites to them.

***Therefore, today, you shall get your dominion back in Jesus name.***

1. **Those whose are vehemently prevented from raising or being successful through a monitor.** In **Job 7:12** *Am I a sea, or a whale, that thou settest a watch over me?*
* When Job became a downtrodden, the first thing he discovered was, some people set a watch over his life.
* Do you realise that some people have been appointed to monitor your affairs for evil? I declare, they will fail.
* If a watch is set over your life, you won’t be able exhibit your potential. You won’t be able to move freely. All your actions will be queried. If a watch is set over your life, you will be suffering and smiling.
* In **Acts 12:4,** four soldiers were set as a watch to monitor Peter inside the prison, but when God intervened, Peter was delivered from among them.

***Therefore today, no matter the craftiness and cunningness of those who are monitoring you for evil, Jesus shall deliver you.***

1. **Those that their substances are in the hand of the heatless man and he deliberately refuses the release.** In **2 Kings 8:6** *And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed unto her a certain officer, saying, Restore all that was hers, and all the fruits of the field since the day that she left the land, even until now.*
* If you fall victims into the hand of a heartless man, he will see you suffering and never shows a concern.
* If they are in a position to raise you, they rather prefer you remain downtrodden to raising you through the position.
* If you have a deal with them and they owe you substances, they will deliberately ignore your settlement because they know that there is nothing you can do.
* In **2 Kings 8:6**, God fought for a downtrodden woman whose means of living were taken away for seven years.
* She suffered loss for seven because of her obedience to the injunctions of God through Prophet Elisha.
* But in a day, God raised her up.
* What are the substances of yours which the heartless ones refuse to release to you?
* And the refusal has indeed being the cause of your retrogression and stagnation.
* The God who fought for the woman is very much available to fight you.
* ***Therefore, I release all your hanging possessions to you in Jesus name.***

1. **The beginners or those that a certain situation compels them to “begin again”.** **Amos 9:13** *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.*
* When an undesired situation compels you to start up an adventure all over again, you are a typical example of the downtrodden.
* In such situation, you will always behold your contemporary at a very far distance from you.
* You may even decide to faint because your hope to meet up again is not sure.
* But God said, even though, you are a beginner or a ‘Begin Again’ He said you will meet those who have gone ahead of you and overtake them.
* The ploughman shall overtake the reaper.
1. **Those who are brutally persecuted because of practising and defending Christian faith. 2Thess 3:2** *And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.*
* A lot of people have been brutalised because of their involvement in Christianity.
* Many are attacked in one way or the other.
* Many whose voices were on the top are now in the silent mode.
* But here comes the time to deliver and to set free.
1. **FOUR PROVOKING WAYS THAT AROUSE GOD TO RAISE THE DOWNTRRODEN.**
2. **When the downtrodden remain in hope that they will still arise.**
* **Job 14:7** *For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again…,*
1. **When the downtrodden remain focused and never allowed the situation to shift their attention from God.**
* **Job 13:15** *Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him..:*
1. **When the downtrodden as well as the shameful set his eyes on God, and still courageously say in presence of mockers that he will not be ashamed.**
* **Isaiah 50: 7** *For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.*
1. **When the downtrodden have made up their mind to stick to Jesus till eternity.**
* **Romans 8:35** *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

***When you give your life to Jesus, God will raise you from among the downtrodden – from the dust and in Heaven you will occupy a great mansion prepared for the believers in Christ.***

* **Altar call…**

 **IREDE PRAYER ITEMS OF THE MONTH**

1. **Father, deliver me from those who use their stronger position to relegate me.**
* **Psalms 142: 6** *Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low: deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than* ***I.***
1. **Father, behold my relegation, raise me again by mercy.**
* **Ps 79:8** *O remember not against us former iniquities: let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us: for we are brought very low.*
1. **Father, give me superpower to overpower my oppressors.**
* **Jer 20:11** *But the LORD is with me as a mighty terrible one: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten.*
* **Isa 7:1** *¶ And it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up toward Jerusalem to war against it, but could not prevail against it.*
* **Jer 15:20** *And I will make thee unto this people a fenced brasen wall: and they shall fight against thee, but they shall not prevail against thee: for I am with thee to save thee and to deliver thee, saith the LORD.*
1. **Father, my celebration is suspended, lift the suspension.**
* **Esther 9:17-19**
1. **Father, I am the “Begin Again” (the ploughman) help me beyond my efforts. Am 9:13** *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper***…**
2. **Father, release my suspended blessings, even now!**
* **Nehemiah 5:11-12** *Restore, I pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their oliveyards, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money, and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that ye exact of them. 12 Then said they, We will restore them, and will require nothing of them; so will we do as thou sayest. Then I called the priests, and took an oath of them, that they should do according to this promise.*
1. **Father, compensate my losses with new sources of breakthroughs.**
* **Palms 126:1** *When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.*
1. **Father, send divine refreshment to my life.**
* **Joel 2: 25-26** *And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpiller, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. 26 And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.*
1. **Father, no power shall overpower me anymore. I’m raised!!!**
* **Deut 7: 24** *And he shall deliver their kings into thine hand, and thou shalt destroy their name from under heaven: there shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou have destroyed them.*
* **That God should raise our economy again individually, collectively and corporately.**