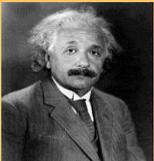




## Monday Matters

### November 4, 2013

#### When Adversity Strikes



**Albert Einstein** - He wasn't able to speak until he was almost four years old, and his teachers said "he would never amount to much."



**Steve Jobs** - At 30 years old, he was left devastated and depressed after being unceremoniously removed from the company he started.



**Michael Jordan** - After being cut from his high school basketball team, he went home, locked himself in his room, and cried.

Years ago, when I was in 8th grade, my English teacher required that every student memorize a poem and recite it in front of the class. He provided a list of acceptable poems and allowed us to choose from the list. Memorizing a poem and standing in front of the class was not my idea of fun. But I had no choice. The poem I



#### What Faith Can Do By Kutless

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#### Quote of the Week

"Comfort and prosperity have never enriched the world as much as adversity has."

~ Billy Graham ~

chose was "If" by Rudyard Kipling. I suppose I picked this poem because the title was short and thinking it might be easier to learn. Amazingly enough, I can remember the first two lines. They are as follows:

If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,

I do remember that it was an inspirational poem and every once in a while will go back and read it. In particular I like the third of the four stanzas the best.

If you can dream - and not make dreams your master,  
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools...

We all have adversities thrown at us from time to time. How we deal with those adversities is the key to overcoming them. As in the poem, we need to "stoop and build 'em up". But an even greater way of dealing with adversities is to turn to God. We will go through the valley before we reach the top of the mountain. Figuratively, the valley is what we call the times of adversity. It is during these hard times when we should draw close to God; He really does want to hear from us. The prophet, Jeremiah wrote, "It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him." (Lamentations 3:22-24 KJV).



As you face an adversity in the days ahead, think about that verse. He is faithful. He is your portion. His mercies are new every morning. Albert, Steve and Michael all faced adversities in their lives, maybe quite similar to adversities we have - maybe it is our health, or loss of job, or being rejected by our peers. They might have stooped down and eventually built what was broken. Knowing God and trusting Him makes overcoming adversity so much better. Proverbs 3:5&6 says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

By Ron Nelson

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