

away from him the companionship of that lovely woman whom he had married and who had borne his child. He was absolutely distraught. For two or three days he struggled with the terrible problem he faced. Then he came to realize the fatherhood of God more fully that God would not have permitted this unless it was part of His purpose. But how could it be? How could this be part of God's purpose? Six months later there came that great flu epidemic. One of the greatest flu epidemics of any kind we've ever had in America. I myself caught the flu at that time.

I was in college and I remember that the second day I was in bed with it I didn't care if I lived or died. I was on the second floor of the house and an old uncle came up. My aunt who was taking care of me--my father and mother were away that afternoon--my aunt said to me, With old uncle Henry in the house we don't want him to catch the flu at his age it would take him quickly. It took many many doctors and nurses more than probably any other epidemic we ever had. She went outside and forgot that the lock was turned on the door. She got out there and saw him for a little and then she turned and she couldn't get in. She called up to me and asked -- told me, the key is on the bureau, will you please throw it out the window. I got out of bed, reached for the key, and by the time I reached ~~xxxxxxx~~ the window which was a very slight distance ~~xxxx~~ away, that open window-- it was all I could do to just drop the key. Just toss it without even looking where it went. It took her an hour's hunting to find it there in the lawn. I dropped back into bed absolutely utterly exhausted.

Well, he said that in his congregation person after person lost loved ones in that epidemic and he saw that he was able to give them comfort in a way that no one would ~~xxxx~~ could have who had not gone through the experience himself. God was preparing him to be able to-- just a word or two from him meant far more than a long discourse that someone might give who had not personally experienced what it meant. He saw how God had worked for good that which was disagreeable and miserable to him for a time.

Someone has said that life is like a beautiful carpet that is being woven but of which we only see the reverse side. You put up a beautiful oriental carpet in front of you here and put it up so you see ~~xxxx~~ the side that is supposed to be on the floor and you see a lot of colors but you don't see any picture. It just looks like nothing at all. But you see the other side and you see the beautiful picture there. We can't see the whole picture, but God has his purpose for our good and for the good of others with whom we come in contact. He has his plan for the life of each one of us. It takes a whole life. We can still be learning this lesson, but it is a tremendous lesson and a vital lesson. What a difference it makes in life.

Oh how many people are suffering misery that is utterly unnecessary because they look at themselves and they look at the circumstances, and they don't understand it and they get upset about it. But God does not permit anything to come into our lives except it is in accordance with His purpose. If we can relax and trust him and praise him, it makes all the difference in our lives.