

# **“It Ain’t Over ‘Till It’s Over”**

*Pastor Jerry Lawson – Daystar 02.22.04*

## **Introduction:**

A. We tend to give up to easily.

1. Thomas Edison failed thousands of times before successfully inventing the light bulb.

*“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.” – Thomas Edison*

B. In sports, the teams which play the whole game, win.

1. *“It ain’t over ‘till it’s over!”*
2. California/Stanford game video clip.

*Isa 40:31 KJV*

*But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

C. We know we need that help, that strength.

1. But waiting is not our favorite thing to do.
2. But if we look to God, we often have to wait.

## **I. Many People are Looking to the Wrong Sources.**

A. More and more Americans are turning to substitutes instead of God’s help and blessing.

1. On the rise: teen experimentation with drugs, alcohol, & sex.
2. Many are in bondage to adultery, pain killers, nerve medication, pornography.

B. "Pastor, why is this going on?"

1. There is an emptiness in the heart of every person.
2. We were created to fellowship with God, but that union has been broken since Adam.
3. The god of this world has provided a multitude of substitutes.

*Ps 121:1-2 NIV*

*I lift up my eyes to the hills--where does my help come from? 2 My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

C. David is a man who knew about looking in the wrong places.

1. He looked for personal fame and was disappointed.
2. He looked for fulfillment in personal conquest (omitting God) and was utterly defeated.
3. Looked for fulfillment in extra-marital affair & nearly lost all that was dear to him.

D. Through trial and error David realized...

*Ps 121:3-8 NIV*

*He will not let your foot slip--he who watches over you will not slumber; 4 indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The LORD watches over you--the LORD is your shade at your right hand; 6 the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. 7 The LORD will keep you from all harm--he will watch over your life; 8 the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.*

E. More than you need:

1. Lawyer, banker, doctor, psychiatrist – you need the Lord of heaven & earth.

2. Someone to make you feel young, important, needed – you need the God of all mercy!

## **# 1 reason people don't trust in God? They fail to wait!**

### **II. We Must Learn to WAIT!**

*Micah 7:7 NKJV*

*Therefore I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me.*

- A. “But I’ve been waiting & nothing has happened...”
  1. You’re waiting like the guy who tested to see if his faith could move a mountain.
  2. Next morning: “Just like I thought; that mt. is still there!”
- B. Notice Micah’s confidence: “My God WILL Hear Me!”
  1. Wait: “yachal” (yah-chal) – to hope, trust, expect.
  2. When you pray & ask of the Lord, your job is FAR from over!
  3. NOW comes the work → HOPE!

*Rom 8:24-25 NIV*

*But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.*

- C. You may think God is not paying attention, but the Bible says otherwise:

*Ps 33:18-19 NIV*

*18 But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, 19 to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.*

1. You just keep hoping in God and His promise.

2. It may not look too good right now, but “IT AIN’T OVER TILL IT’S OVER!!!”
3. Charles & Sue Brown Story.

D. “But pastor, I’m just an ordinary person...”

1. I make mistakes, often fall...
2. What about people like me???

E. There are more people like you than you know.

*Mic 7:8 NKJV*  
*When I fall...*

1. HOLD IT – “WHEN I fall...”
2. News Flash → You will make mistakes!!!

F. Let me tell you about a miserable failure.

1. Godly, wealthy, elite heritage.
2. World-class Roman religious education (1<sup>st</sup> C.)
3. But instead of loving the church of JC, he hated, persecuted it – Saul of Tarsus.
4. One day on the way to Damascus – He Fell!
5. Off horse – BLINDED – lost for 3 days – lost family, job, influence...
6. But the story didn’t end that way!

G. Paul went on to become a leading Apostle in the NT church:

1. Established dozens of churches.
2. Won thousands of souls to Christ.
3. Wrote \_ of the New Testament.
4. Passionately lived every day for Christ w/o restraints!

*Mic 7:8-9 NKJV*

*When I fall, I will arise; When I sit in darkness, The LORD will be a light to me...(9b) He will bring me forth to the light; I will see His righteousness.*

### **III. When You Trust in God, the Story's Not Over Until HE Says it's Over!**

- A. I don't care how dark it seems, how low you've fallen → Put hope in God and you won't be disappointed.
1. He'll guide you through the darkness.

*Ps 23:4 NIV*

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me*

2. Why is there no fear? B/C God promised to bring you out of darkness into LIGHT!

- B. You have to understand something about darkness and light:
1. Darkness – everything evil Satan desires for you:
    - i. Sin, fear, doubt, indecision, deception → Rage, bondage, punishment (where Satan wants you).
  2. Light – Where God wants you:

*1 Peter 2:9 NKJV*

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

- MIRACLE-WORKING LIGHT!
- Healing, family, children, finances, spirit...

- C. You need to realize: ***"It Ain't Over Till It's Over!"***

1. It may be as dark as midnight right now – depressed, defeated, worried – “Joy comes in the morning!”
2. It may seem like you’ve been in a season of darkness for months on end, but in just a little while...

*Mal 4:2 NASU*

*the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings*

## ***It Ain’t Over ‘Till It’s Over!!!***

### **Conclusion:**

- A. There’s a special group of people Micah addresses before he closes – *The Condemned*.

*Mic 7:18 NKJV*

*Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy.*

- B. God’s mercy endures forever!

- In Psalm 136 the phrase is spoken 26 times!

*Mic 7:19 NKJV*

*He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea.*

- C. Can I tell you my favorite word in all of Micah?

## **“AGAIN”**

1. You haven’t been perfect: I haven’t...
2. We’ve all fallen...

***“He will AGAIN have mercy on us!”***