

Reflection Monday Week 18 – 2021

There is a tendency to grumble against God when we are trying our very best to do his will and things go wrong at every turn. Even Moses grumbled. It ultimately boils down to the fact that we are forced to accept that we do not have control over everything in our lives. When things go wrong, not of our choosing or of our doing, we look for someone or something else to blame. God is an easy target.

The Trouble Tree

The carpenter I hired to restore an old farmhouse had just finished a rough first day on the job. A flat tire cost him an hour's work, his electric saw gave up, and his ancient truck refused to start. As I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands. On opening the door, he underwent an amazing transformation. His tanned face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss. Afterwards, he walked me to my car. We passed the tree, and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked about what I had seen him do earlier. "Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied. "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing for sure, troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and children. So, I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home. Then in the morning, I pick them up again." "Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to pick them up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

Jesus is only too willing to be our trouble tree!!