

"HOSTING A PITY PARTY"

PASTOR TIMOTHY GREEN

Have you ever been to a pity party? Have you ever hosted one? How many people showed up?

Lying in bed last week, sicker than a dog, I hosted a little pity party. The only people who showed up were me, myself and I. No, I take that back, the devil showed up and whenever he arrived I knew it was time to pray a dismal prayer and send everyone home.

My allergies had been screaming for several days. I finally went to the doctor on Saturday, only to discover that I had Strep throat. I ended up in the bed Saturday night with fever. I asked for prayer so that I could be in church and preach on Sunday. I woke up feeling better and came to church and spoke three times. After church, I started feeling sick again and then I spent the next four days in the bed with chills and fever. It was about the fourth day that I had my pity party. I found myself saying, "Lord, why am I still sick? I've been prayed for. This has gone on long enough. I got out of bed and went to church and preached whenever I really shouldn't have. I did my best. Why am I not better yet?"

Have you ever felt sorry for yourself? Maybe over health issues, relational conflict, financial frustrations, spiritual disappointments or circumstances out of your control. I think we all probably have and we are in good company.

Great men of God have gone from spiritual highs to pity party lows. Elijah was calling down fire from heaven one day and then running for his life, frightened and depressed, hiding in a cold dark cave, praying that he might die. He got his eyes off of God and on Jezebel.

We've got to keep our eyes on Jesus. His grace is sufficient and His power is made perfect in our weakness.

God might be trying to get our attention so that He can show us something. Maybe we are just tired and need a break. If you are mentally or emotionally or physically fatigued it can weaken your faith. Maybe you need to rest. Maybe you need to get outside and enjoy the outdoors. Maybe you need to phone a friend and unburden your heart and allow them to share words of wisdom with you. Whatever you need to do, do it.

However, I feel quite certain that hosting a pity party will not do you any good. That's the one party that nobody likes to attend.