



# Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

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## Lord, Deal With Me

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Do you like it when things are happening? I like it when things are happening. If things don't happen at my house, I move something, change something, shift something. I'm the "shiftest" person you know. When we took down our Christmas tree last year I said to Wayne, "Let's move something." I love that; I just love that. I can't stand it when things are stale. We can't move on with God when things are stale. So if things aren't moving in the spirit, I move things physically.

So I said, "Is there anything at all you wouldn't want to move?" because we have a grand piano. It's heavy, heavy, heavy.

I was giving him a chance to say, "Anything but the piano," but he didn't say that.

So I said, "Well, I'm thinking about moving the piano." So we shifted it all and I was one happy person. I moved the lamps. I moved the end tables. I have a multitude of sofas. I moved the sofas. It's not that we have a large house. We have a small house with everything close together. Since it's just Wayne and I and the dog, that works out okay for us.

Sometimes God wants to shift things. He wants to change things in our lives. We have to be alert in the spirit to hear from Him and then to obey. I don't know why we're slow to obey. Maybe you're one of those speedy, obedient persons, but usually I have to think about it and ponder, even after walking with God all these years. Some things I'm just not interested in.

Does that happen to you? And yet we're told to crucify the flesh with the affections and lusts.<sup>1</sup> If we're going to run the race with God, we must run a disciplined race, and one of the chief disciplines is to keep the flesh under.

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Paul said, "I keep my flesh under." He said, "I don't want to preach to you and then I myself be a castaway."<sup>2</sup> So what he was preaching, what he was teaching, he had to follow himself. And he said, "We're running to win." The King James says "to obtain." Most translators' say "to win."<sup>3</sup> So when we're talking about running the race, we're running to win.

Well, sometimes we're not in a position to win. And you know who helps us? Almighty God. My, He helps us. That's what the chastening of the Lord is. It's simply the help of God to get us in a position to win.

The Scripture in Hebrews 12:1 says, *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.* This verse begins with the word *therefore*. The King James says *wherefore*, but *wherefore* and *therefore* are about the same thing. This *therefore* connects chapter 12 on the chastening of the Lord with the great "hall of fame" in

chapter 11. Hebrews 11 talks about Abel, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Gideon, and others. These men and women heard from God and obeyed God. They ran the race with faith and patience, and won. That's God's will for every single one of us. He doesn't want any of us to lose, to struggle, to come the end of life, and be unable to say with Paul, "*I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course.*"<sup>4</sup> When the Apostle Paul came to the end of his life, he knew he had done the things God called him to do. He said, "*I have finished.*"

If you and I fail to listen to God, we will not make the changes that are necessary to finish our course. Then we have to say, "I almost finished...I wanted to finish...I tried to finish...I came a little short. Hope I didn't come too short." But we want to finish! We want to come to the end of life and hear our Lord say, "*Well done thou good and faithful servant.*"<sup>5</sup> That's really finishing the course.

In order to run our race and finish our course, we follow a vision, a goal given to us by Almighty God as individuals and corporately as the body of Christ. We run towards that goal, run with that vision, and we run steadfastly. That's patience. It's "keeping on keeping on," never veering off course.

But do you notice as you read Hebrews 12:1, what sends us off course? It is *sins* and *weights*! These are two different things. Sin is what you shouldn't have done or said. It can also be what you should have done but didn't. There are both sins of omission and sins of commission. A weight is just a hindrance. It's not illegal. It's not immoral. It's not a sin. It is a barrier that will not help you run the race. If you watch the Olympic races, you will notice the participants do not dress in mountain climbing boots and heavy jackets. If they did, you would know they didn't intend to win. They must dress for the race.

I used to play tennis. At the time I was teaching three Bible study groups a week. Because our children were young and I was very busy, it became a hindrance. There is nothing illegal or immoral about tennis. It was just a hindrance to me. It was a weight in my life and God began to deal with me. I had a tennis partner that I loved and she loved me. We met for tennis once or twice a month. But I knew I must stop playing tennis for a season, and I didn't want to.

We will have to crucify the flesh if we are going to run God's race. We must tell the flesh, "We are going to obey God because God's purpose for us is good." In Jeremiah 29:11 God says, "*For I know the thoughts*

*that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*" What a wonderful verse of scripture. It does not dictate an unexpected end. We cannot say, "Oh, I wonder what happened!" No, if we listen to God, we have an expected end. When we run the race He has set before us and embrace the plan that He has planted in our heart, we will win. By running a disciplined race, surrendering those things of the flesh that would be a hindrance, we will finish our course with joy. We will hear the voice of the Almighty say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant." Oh, how good it will be to successfully finish the race of God.

<sup>1</sup> Galatians 5:24

<sup>4</sup> 1 Timothy 4:7

<sup>2</sup> 1 Corinthians 9:27

<sup>5</sup> Mark 25:21,23

<sup>3</sup> 1 Corinthians 9:24



This message is an excerpt from the new series entitled, *Deal With Me*. If you are interested in purchasing this series, please send \$12.00 payable to Becky Combee Ministries, Inc., at the address below. Shipping is included.

## Mugs and Muffins

**We were pleased this month to teach at the second annual inspirational event, Mugs and Muffins, for all ladies in the community of Interlachen, Florida. This event was birthed by the Ladies Ministry of Bethel Assembly of God. It was an honor to be a part of their vision.**