

THE STRIPPING

To my Lord and my God

From John 18:11

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There are times when the Lord must strip all of us down to nothing,
so we have no hope in ourselves,
in our income, in our future
in our health, no hope of ever
overcoming our sin-nature cavities,
or even any more hope in His promises.

I've found that His vows are completely trustworthy....
in His time.... But my understanding of His Time
is so limited – it seems I'm so blind.....

It seems that the Lord has been stripping me, once again,
All the way down to nothing. The addition onto our home is stalled.
There is disharmony with my wife....
My business income is down, way down.

There isn't enough income from those who owe me so much
to pay the phone bill, let alone the others....

And each time I ask Him what He wants me to do,
when my cries of desperation reach His ears He immediately responds
by telling me *“Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to Trust and Obey!*

Then He reminds me that the Lord Himself was stripped of His Crown,
Stripped of his friends, His clothes, His dignity,
and then beaten to a bloody pulp before
He was stripped of life itself.
He drank in full the cup the Father had given to Him.....

BUT – His life and His kingdom were rightly restored.... In His time.
In His time, in His time, He makes all things beautiful in His time.

So, for today, when I'm feeling crushed by the business pressures,
Disheartened by the “successful” manipulation and deceit of others
Terribly dismayed at the lack of truth and justice in our courts...
When I find myself at the point where I no longer want to continue the fight
Midst the storms seem to be overwhelming my small boat,

I come back to the only hope I have left, that
HE understands, because HE has been down this road before....
He was stripped of everything too....in His time.
Because He overcame and has promised that He WILL be with me
I will once again pick up my cross and follow Him.
He knows the tears. He knows my anxious thoughts....
My issues fade from significance..... He has already won the war....

And like a sleeping toddler in His arms, I can fall asleep in total security.