

**Thought for the day: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Job 23 Grumpy Me – Maggie Marshall**

Recently I have been reading the book 'Owning God's World' by Margaret Hillyer. Margaret's foundational role in Fellowship Afloat, a unique Christian activity centre based in Tollesbury, for over 30 years as it grew from small beginnings into a thriving centre accommodating over 2000 guests a year. During lockdown they have been able to go ahead with expanding the accommodation for the future. It is used a lot by schools, churches, youth groups, Falcon ventures. I have chosen 5 of her reflections on passages in the bible that were relevant to her. I have found it to be a useful book as part of my quiet times. Margaret put the finishing touches to this book just 3 days before she died. Over the years she had witnessed and helped so many children and adults through her ministry at Fellowship Afloat

**Job 23 Grumpy Me**

Well, I'm a right grump today.  
All I can do is moan.  
I'm so fed up I can't be bothered to do anything.  
I'd like to tell God just how I feel.  
If I knew he was listening, I'd tell him a thing or two.  
Why can't I find him?  
I *would* listen to what he had to say –  
In fact I think it is time he gave me a few answers.

But, no matter how hard I try, I can't seem to find him.  
It's as if he's hiding from me, deliberately not listening.  
It's hard to hang in there;  
It's hard to believe this is all for my own good.  
I've tried so hard – I thought I was doing all right –  
But it all seemed to have gone horribly wrong.

I guess he knows what he is doing,  
I have to trust he's got it all under control,  
But I'm so scared.  
We would think he'd keep the darkness from me,  
But he hasn't and I'm so frightened.  
I hardly dare believe, and yet I know that he is God,  
Almighty God!  
And he is working out his plan for me.

I think all of us at some point in our lives are like Grumpy Me, perhaps even more so during Covid lockdown but remember the verse

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.**

Proverbs 3: 5 – 6