

# How to Handle the Rough (Times)

Sunday AM 12/13/20

## Introduction:

“Life is hard and then you die” is not exactly reassuring or comforting. But life can be hard as there are all kinds of trials. During this time people have lost jobs, wealth, the ability to socialize. I can only imagine what some of you will one day say about 2020. As said in an earlier lesson trials are real and they are personal. This lesson we want to conclude this subject by noticing how we should handle adversity and look at some people in the Bible we can learn from. I golf there is a simple rule, you have to play the ball where it lies.

### I) How You Handle Adversity Reveals A Lot About You

#### A) About your character

1. Often people say adversity builds character.

***James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.***

2. But it also reveals your character and perhaps what you need to work on. Anger, defeatist attitude, blame others, envy, etc.
3. Virtue or moral excellence kind of sums up all the qualities a Christian should have.

***2 Peter 1:5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,***

- a. The cream rises to the top. When the going gets rough the tough get going.
- b. A question we need to ask ourselves is how I respond when bad things happen.

## B) About your faith (knowledge plus trust)

1. Paul's thorn in the flesh-- **2 Corinthians 12:7** *And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*
  - a. Take it away, **v. 8**. Often we pray for God to take away our trials, rough times.
  - b. No, **v. 9a**. God's grace is sufficient, all we need.
  - c. My strength does not come from me but from God (Christ), **v. 10**
2. Have you ever tried to rescue a drowning person? As they struggle to not drown, they fight against the one trying to save them. We can be like that drowning person fighting against God.

## II) Learning From The Best

### A) Job

**Job 1:13** *Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house; 14 and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, 15 "when the*

***Sabeans raided them and took them away-indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" 16 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" 17 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" 18 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, 19 "and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"***

1. Consider the loss – family, wealth and eventually in **chapter 2**, his health
2. What is Job known for? Patience.

***Job 1:22 In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.***

***Job 2:10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.***

***Job 42:1 Then Job answered the LORD and said: 2 "I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.***

3. Christians in the first century faced financial loss, possible loss of family, injustice, and possible loss of their own lives.

**James 5:10** *My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord--that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.*

4. Ultimately, we have to trust in God and have patience so as to endure for a short time.

## B) Joseph

**Genesis 37:19** *Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming! 20 "Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!" 21 But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him." 22 And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him" -that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father. 23 So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him. 24 Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it. 25 And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to Egypt. 26 So Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? 27 "Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh." And his brothers listened. 28 Then Midianite traders passed by; so the*

***brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.***

1. Hated by his brothers, almost killed by them, sold into slavery, eventually accused of making advances toward his master's wife, ends up in prison, interprets dreams but is forgotten.
2. What would you have done? Blame God, quit being a nice guy, think about revenge, etc.
3. Joseph saw the hand of God in this.

***Genesis 50:20 "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.***

#### **C) Peter**

1. His tough circumstances was often of his own making.
2. Denied the Lord three times.

***Mark 16:7 "But go, tell His disciples--and Peter--that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."***

3. Could have been overcome with shame and guilt instead he followed Jesus.

#### **D) Paul**

1. Lost everything to serve Christ.

***Philippians 3:8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ***

2. At Philippi he was beaten, thrown into prison.

***Acts 16:25*** ***But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.***

3. They were praying and singing before the prison doors were open.

***Acts 16:26*** ***Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.***

4. Pray and sing before you are delivered.

### **Conclusion:**

I remember a number of years ago, Sergio Garcia, hit a ball which ended up behind a tree. He would have to hit the ball around the tree, up a hill, to a place he could not see. There are times we might face something like that. Endure some hardship but trusting in God and aiming at a place we cannot see.