

Sermon Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God



人在患難中 In the Midst of Adversity (主恩夠用)

KEY PASSAGE: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 | SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE: Joshua 1:9 | John 14:2-3 | 1 Corinthians 1:2

林後十二:7-10 God's grace is sufficient for us! 書一:9 約十四:2-3 林前一:2 03/06/16

SUMMARY

We make a multitude of decisions throughout our lives, but one thing we'd never choose is adversity.

我們活在墮落的世界必經患難!

However, it is something we all experience because we live in a fallen world filled with sin and its consequences. Adversity is a condition of suffering and hardship involving anguish, pressure, trials, heartaches, or disappointments. If we could, we'd probably try to avoid anything that causes us pain, but then we'd miss some of the best blessings in life.

如何面對
及看待
患難至
多麼!

如不以患難成神的祝福!

SERMON POINTS

The Scriptures are filled with examples of people who faced adversity, and on the other side of the experience, discovered how God worked through their situations to bring about good. All these people would say that their suffering was worth the final result.

Scriptural Examples 屬靈前輩的例証:

- Joseph experienced betrayal, slavery, and imprisonment before becoming second in command to Pharaoh.
- Moses was a fugitive in the wilderness before God called him to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt.
- David spent many years running from King Saul before he became Israel's most notable king in the Old Testament.
- Esther was an exiled Jew until God elevated her to the position of queen of Persia and used her to save His people.
- Daniel was a captive in Babylon but was promoted to the highest level of government by the king.
- Jesus' disciples suffered persecution, but God used them to spread Christianity throughout the

約瑟

摩西

大衛

以斯帖

但以理

耶穌的
門徒們

entire Roman world.

- Mary and Martha mourned the loss of their brother before seeing Jesus raise him to life.

別亞和歌

The Example of Paul

Adversity can be one of God's greatest blessings if we respond as Paul did in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

Because he'd been entrusted with great revelations from the Lord, he was also given a painful "thorn in the flesh" to keep him from becoming proud. Paul implored the Lord three times to remove it but was

told, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness" (v. 9). Paul responded by saying, "Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me." (v. 9).

患難能變成
上帝給我們
最大的祝福!

林後十二:9

Two Responses to Adversity

離棄我,祂變成並非我同路

In the midst of affliction, people respond in two opposite ways.

錯誤的反應:

- Walk away from God. If the Lord doesn't meet their expectations, some people become disappointed and respond in the following ways:

離開神

- Doubt the reality of God. Since the Lord let adversity happen, they question whether He is who the Bible says He is. → 不信上帝

懷疑神的真實

- Blame Him. Because God didn't prevent the situation, they decide it's His fault. → 苦毒

埋怨神

- Turn their back on God permanently. Some people cannot accept a hardship or loss in their lives and become so angry with the Lord that they never return to Him. → 靠自己

不理會神

- Reject the Bible. When people's partial knowledge of Scripture and God's ways lead to unmet expectations, they may close their Bibles thinking that He doesn't keep His promises. The problem is not God's faithfulness but their interpretation of His promises in accordance with their own plans. → 靠世界

拒絕聖經

林後十二:9 祂對我說,「我的恩典夠你用的。因為我的能力,是在人的軟弱上顯得完全。所以我更喜歡誇自己的軟弱,好叫基督的能力覆庇我。」

• **Nurture their hurt and anger.** The result of this response is deeper hurt and more intense anger that leads to bitterness. In turn, bitterness poisons every area of life and brings with it misery, both to the bitter person and those close to him.

讓痛苦及怒氣滋長
→消極人生

• **Waste their lives.** When people walk away from God and His Word, they forfeit all the good plans He had for them. The adversity He designed to draw them to Himself has been wasted and so have their lives.

浪費生命
→失掉生命

• **Walk into a deeper relationship with God.** Instead of turning away from the Lord, the better option is to draw close to Him in adversity. This approach results in the development of the following qualities:

與主有更深厚的關係

• **Unshakeable faith.** In the midst of our pain, the Lord proves Himself trustworthy, not to do what we want, but to keep His promises and stay with us through the suffering.

更堅固的信仰及信心

• **Unwearied patience.** When we understand that God is with us and has a purpose for our adversity, He gives us the patience to wait for His perfect timing. We can trust Him because He will never prolong our suffering beyond what is necessary and will see us through till the end.

不可磨滅的忍耐

• **Unwavering Courage.** God told Joshua to be strong and courageous because He would be with Him wherever he went (Josh. 1:9). This same promise is ours today. Each time we trust the Lord in times of adversity, we gain courage to persevere and to face the next challenge with confident faith.

不動搖的勇氣

• **Increasing purity.** Adversity prompts us to examine our lives. As we turn to the Lord in our pain and difficulties, He reveals sin and wrong thinking so we can repent, be cleansed, and live a holy life. This is one of the ways He conforms us to the likeness of His Son and changes our desires so we don't want anything in our lives which does not fit our holy identity as His children. The Bible calls us saints and that is how we should act and see ourselves (1 Cor. 1:2). Having been trained through adversity, holiness becomes more than a word, but an obedient lifestyle. It's not a sinless life

更加聖潔, 更像基督

林前-:2

but one which is fully committed to Christ and has no desire to sin against Him.

• **Love for God's Word.** Our first response to adversity should be to open the Scriptures, asking the Lord what He desires to say to us. The Bible is our most precious possession because it's God's voice speaking to us in written language, giving us encouragement, direction, comfort, and correction. When we approach life with a surrendered will, a determination to follow Christ, and firm faith in His Word, we'll accept God's dealings with us, even if they include pain and hardship, knowing that His goal is to make us holy and useful for His purposes. When we have this attitude toward adversity, our witness for Christ attracts other people to Him.

以愛慕主話, 親近並使用主的話語來得着激勵, 指引, 安慰及矯正
明瞭主在我患難過程中的心意, 安排及最佳目的
我要依靠主來渡過患難

We may not have a choice regarding affliction, but when it comes, we must decide how to respond. We can either yield to it, knowing that the Lord has something good in mind, or we can turn away from Him, live in rebellion, and waste our lives.

- 選擇並決定過討主喜悅的生活 -

RESPONSE

■ Review the qualities that result from walking into a deeper relationship with God in times of adversity. What changes in your thinking, attitudes, behavior, and habits will you have to make for God to produce these in your life?

上帝的聖潔及祂的呼召
我的態度及決心及毅力

Now look at the ways people walk away from God. Have you ever let disappointment draw you into any of these responses? What was the result?

■ How has Scripture shaped your attitude toward adversity? What verses or biblical characters have given you guidance, encouragement, comfort, perspective, and faith in the midst of suffering or difficulty?

聖經經文及重要偉人的例証安慰, 堅固並幫助我渡過一切

書-9 當剛強壯胆! 不要懼怕, 驚惶, 耶和華你的神必與你同在。

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在基督耶穌裡成聖, 蒙召作聖徒的
- 聖潔中: 林前-:2
→ 過聖潔生活

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我要堅持固定靈修, 讀經, 禱告; 聖心依靠主
神掌權, 神引導, 神堅固並安慰我