

2016 Summer Series: Faith Builders

Part Two: How Hard Times Build Faith

Sunday July 10, 2016

1. The story of Joseph: Hated by his brothers. Thrown into a waterless water basin – left for dead. Sold into slavery. Falsely accused. Sent to prison for something he didn't do. Left there – forgotten – for two years!

2. The story of Job: He lost all of his livestock. He lost all of his children. His body was covered with painful sores. His friends didn't really help. And his wife told him to curse God and die.

3. Did Joseph's faith grow or shrink during his hard times?

4. *But Joseph said to his brothers, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (Gen. 50:19-20).*

5. Did Job's faith grow or shrink during his hard times?

6. *"Though he (God) slay me, yet will I hope in him..." (Job 13:15).*

7. The stories of Joseph and Job remind us of a few things:

- That we can only learn some lessons (like Job) the hard way
- That sometimes we can only become the leaders that we can (like Joseph) by persevering through tough times
- That we can learn to trust the plan of God (like Joseph) by choosing to take the next steps with him
- That we can learn to trust the heart of God (like Job) by choosing to say the right things about him

8. What is your self-talk about God when you're going through a hard time?

And then – what do you do next? These are measures of faith.

9. *We rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who he has given us (Ro. 5:3-5).*

10. Why rejoice in suffering?

A. Because suffering serves a purpose.

B. Because our hope is in Jesus Christ.

11. Dr. Brene Brown has said that hope happens when:

- a. we have the ability to set realistic goals
- b. we are able to figure out how to achieve those goals
- c. we believe in ourselves to hit those goals

12. Pastor Rob would say we can have hope because:

- a. we have the ability to partner with Jesus to set good goals
- b. we have the resources of Jesus – incl. wisdom – to achieve those goals
- c. we believe that we can do all things through Jesus who strengthens us (Phil. 4:13).