

James 1

I have entitled today's message, "**Hard Times**" Part 2

James 1:1

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

James 1:1-14

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

2

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

5

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

8

A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

9

Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:

10

But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.

11

For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

12

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

13

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Let us pray

You may be seated.

“Hard Times”

Difficulties produce something in us.

What is it?

Patience = endurance, inner strength, constancy

vs. 4

But let patience (endurance) have her perfect (maturing or growing) work, that ye may be perfect (maturing or growing) and entire (complete, whole), wanting (lacking) nothing.

Notice the word Let.

Question of our will.

Will we resist or Will we LET THIS PROCESS TAKE PLACE?

It is a painful exercise.

God says, Let it work and Do not hinder or short circuit the process?

Because it produces something in us that is missing!

We must be careful not to interfere in this process in other people especially our children.

They need to learn.

We can greatly harm our kids when we disconnect the learning processes of God.

Thinking that we are rescuing them from difficult troubles.

One of the grave mistakes we make as parents is that we remove the tough and trying situations and circumstances, thus doing a disservice to our kids.

We rush in to make things better or easier, to take the pressure off thus denying our children the strength they need for bigger tests to come.

Churches do this, they run in and pay the bill or help out and release the pressure.

We need to pray and make sure that we do not interfere with God's work in a persons life.

By using the Diverse testings of life, God develops us, matures us, toughens us, to make us complete.

Life experience is a great teacher.

God uses the negative and undesirous things that we fall into.

These negative things can take the life and the joy out of everything

How can we find the purpose in our troubles?

How can we find the silver lining?

They are doing a work inside us.

So that we are "wanting nothing", lacking nothing in our character.

It is easier to build a house than to build character. Character is built over time and thru the trials and difficulties of life.

The way most people view misfortune is the greatest misfortune of all.

These testings demonstrate what we have:

Whether we are well grounded in our faith or flawed in our faith
 Whether we are weak in the Lord or strong in the Lord
 Whether we have no root of faith or we have been really converted.

Remember the seed that fell on Stony ground in Matt. 13

No root, he endureth for a while, but when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the Word, immediately he was offended.

Afflictions reveal and help us to determine what we have and who we are.

We are not talking about a ship that is in a harbor tied down able to handle the wind and waves.

We are talking about a ship out on the waves of life and in the midst of it all keeps its direction and focus and goes undeterred and never moves from the course.

In spite of all winds, waves, the ship never wanders off course.

That was Joseph

That was Daniel

That was Jesus Christ.

Turn back just a few pages to Heb. 12:2-3

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured (stayed under, under go, bear it) the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3

For consider him that endured (fortitude, perseverance) such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with Grief.

Life has this in store for all of us.

Jesus was touched in all points just like us and for the Joy set before Him, He endured!

And For Jesus who is set before us, let us endure, let us have this patience to faithfully, triumphantly, without complaint,

Count it all joy, Knowing this, God is doing a work in me through this trial.

So Let us run with Patience (endurance, constancy, determination) the race that is set before us.

Hebrews 12:1

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Every person has their own lane in life to run in.

Every person has their own hills to climb and curves to take, and many times blind curves.

God says for us to run and do not quit.
God wants us to finish our course.

When life is down hill, or we have the wind at our back, life is easy.

And then sometimes when we run, our legs are burning and they are screaming at us to STOP.

God says to run the race that is before us.

How long is our lane? Don't know. 20, 40, 60, 80

What is in our lane?

Cancer, Heart problems, health problem
family problems,
death of a loved one,
marital difficulty,
financial setback,
get knocked out of the spelling bee,
did not make the ball team,
acne, zits, and our hair is falling out,

Many are dissatisfied with their lane in life.

They look at their lane and have no hope of anything changing, depression sets in, thoughts of suicide,

If we think our life is bad, let us talk about Job.

Jeremiah -

That was the Apostle Paul - think about all the things that befell him

Walt Disney was fired from the Kansas City Star in 1919 because, his editor said, he "lacked imagination and had no good ideas. He lacked creativity"

"All the adversity I've had in my life, all my troubles and obstacles, have strengthened me... You may not realize it when it happens, but a kick in the teeth may be the best thing in the world for you." – Walt Disney

We see others and their lane and we desire to get out of our lane.

They want to live someone else life.

Many try to get out of their lane.

Hold on, wait a minute, do you really know what their life is like?

We live in a world of fake posts, doctored images,

God says to live our life, to run with patience, endurance and to keep our eyes where?

When we look at our life, our circumstances, our troubles, it can steal our motivation, disheartens us.

The Bible says, Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher,
 Looking unto Jesus, do you see Him? The night of His betrayal, His trial, His crucifixion,
 He patiently endured, for us.

What is the message for us? **Heb. 12:3c** lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Is that not the truth.... I can't do it, I can't go on, I can't live this way

Wearied - tired and Faint

WHERE? Wearied and faint where?

In our minds

Discouraged, disheartened, depressed, demoralized, disappointed, deflated, down cast,
 down in the dumps, desponded, dejected, disillusioned

to pull the heart out of them, to lose heart
 to lose spirit - to hang their heads
 to lose courage – to quit, give up, stop trying

Endure it.

If we Love God,
 We must stay with God, go with God,

We need to stay in the fight - continue in the fight, no surrender,

We may be knocked down but we get up

We need to finish the course - keep pushing, enduring

We need to keep the faith - keep believing, and trusting and leaning on God and His
 Word.

There is a reward for such faithfulness and endurance, dedication and commitment.

James 1:12

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

But people get sideways under duress

They start to blame God

Getting angry with God,

Start saying untrue and negative things toward God

But this is not from God.

Every good gift is from God above not sin, not temptations,

Normal part of life

We do not live in a Hallmark world. Where everything is fixed in the last 10 minutes. Not reality.

I Samuel 12:18-21 shows us how we handle tragedy, trials

We Worship

We accept the outcome

We mourn and then we get up and move forward, go back to living

We trust in God

We comfort others

Heb. 11:36-38

And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

37

They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

38

(Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

Let the adversity do its work on our soul, our character

Hard Times

Let us stand for closing invitation

2 extremes

Life is empty, vain and vexation of spirit and life without hope and help - This leads to destruction even suicide.

Or we can turn to Christ and find rest for our souls, peace in the valleys of life.

Now what are our problems/trials/temptations?

What are we facing?

What is it doing to us? It is TRYING our faith.

What do we need to do? Let the process work to build our character, our inner strength our faith,

and we need to ask for Wisdom.

We will preach on that next time.

Gospel