

Find Hope in Difficult Times Shine in a Dark World – Part 6

Life Church St. Louis – May 30, 2021

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Message Videos – www.lcstl.org/messages

Philippians 1:27b-28a (ESV) ...[I trust] that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents.

Philippians 1:29 (ESV) For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,

1. Facing _____

Jeremiah 19:15 (ESV) “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, behold, I am bringing upon this city and upon all its towns all the disaster that I have pronounced against it, because they have stiffened their neck, refusing to hear my words.”

Jeremiah 20:1-2 (ESV) Now Pashhur the priest, the son of Immer, who was chief officer in the house of the LORD, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things. Then Pashhur beat Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the upper Benjamin Gate of the house of the LORD.

Jeremiah 20:4 (ESV) For thus says the LORD: Behold, I will make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends. They shall fall by the sword of their enemies while you look on. And I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon. He shall carry them captive to Babylon, and shall strike them down with the sword.

2. Dealing with _____

Jeremiah 20:7 (ESV) O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me.

Jeremiah 20:8 (ESV) For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, “Violence and destruction!” For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.

Jeremiah 20:9 (ESV) If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

3. Regain _____ in God

Jeremiah 20:11 (ESV) But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.

Lamentations 3:21-22 (ESV) But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;

Lamentations 3:23-24 (ESV) they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

Action Plan for This Week

Have a daily time of Bible reading & prayer (Jeremiah 20)
 Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

Invite a friend to attend the service next week.

How will I obey God's Word this week? _____

Find Hope in Difficult Times Study Guide

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Intro. How can the stories of courageous Christians of the past, like William Tyndale, encourage us in our own lives?

Intro. What does it mean to stand firm in one spirit in the midst of difficult times (Philippians 1:27-28)?

Intro. Why has it been granted to every believer to suffer for Christ (Philippians 1:29)?

1A. How do you think that Jeremiah's message was received (Jeremiah 19:15)?

1B. What do you think motivated the priest to persecute Jeremiah (Jeremiah 20:1-2)?

1C. What did Jeremiah have to overcome in order to prophesy to his persecutor (Jeremiah 20:4)?

1D. How does the possibility of persecution affect your willingness to respond to God's calling?

2A. How was Jeremiah's relationship with the Lord affected by his persecution (Jeremiah 20:7)?

2B. In what ways did Jeremiah's calling impact his relationship with the people of Judah (Jeremiah 20:8)?

2C. Why did Jeremiah keep on prophesying despite the difficulty (Jeremiah 20:9)?

2D. How does Jeremiah's inward struggle with despair in his persecution reflect your own struggles?

3A. How did Jeremiah encourage himself in Jeremiah 20:11?

3B. How does God's character put the suffering associated with opposition into perspective (Lamentations 3:21-22)?

3C. In what ways is each morning an opportunity to find hope in God (Lamentations 3:23-24)?

3D. How could you encourage someone who seems to have no hope?