

Pastor Ron Case  
3/12/23

## **“At First Glance...” (3)**

**“Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.” (John 7:24 NIV)**

### **...Trials seem Useless**

**Job 7:1-3** – (1) “Has not man a hard service on earth, and are not his days like the days of a hired hand? (2) Like a slave who longs for the shadow, and like a hired hand who looks for his wages, (3) so I am allotted months of emptiness, and nights of misery are apportioned to me.”

**Hebrews 12:11** – “For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

### **Trials: Means to Personal Profitable Ends**

**James 1:2-4** – (2) “Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. (3) For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. (4) So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.” (NLT)

**James 1:12** – “God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.” (NLT)

**Romans 5:3-5** – (3) “We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. (4) And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. (5) And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.” (NLT)

**Romans 8:18** – “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

### **Trials: Means to God’s Ends**

**Philippians 1:6** – “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

**Deuteronomy 4:20** – “But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.”

### **Anticipating Trials**

**Malachi 3:2-3** – (2) But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. (3) He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD.”

**1 Peter 4:12-13** – (12) “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. (13) But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.”

### **Adaptation & Trials**

**Psalm 105:16-22** – (16) “When he summoned a famine on the land and broke all supply of bread, (17) he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. (18) His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron; (19) until what he had said came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him. (20) The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free; (21) he made him lord of his house and ruler of all his possessions, (22) to bind his princes at his pleasure and to teach his elders wisdom.”

### **Appreciating Trials**

**Psalm 119:67, 71, 92** – (67) “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word. (71) It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes. (92) If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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