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SHARE: Sharing Jesus in Today's World

How Tough Times Shape Your Story

Philippians 1:12–14 (HCSB)

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has actually resulted in the advance of the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard, and to everyone else, that my imprisonment is in the cause of Christ. ¹⁴ Most of the brothers in the Lord have gained confidence from my imprisonment and dare even more to speak the message fearlessly.

1. YOU NEVER KNOW HOW YOUR STORY _____ IN GOD'S PLAN v 12

- It's hard to make _____ of the trials as they occur.

Consider Paul's imprisonment:

Acts 28:30–31 (HCSB)

Then he stayed two whole years in his own rented house. And he welcomed all who visited him, ³¹ proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with full boldness and without hindrance.

- What Satan meant for evil, God uses for _____.

Consider Joseph's story:

Genesis 50:20 (HCSB)

You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result - the survival of many people.

- Your journey may have been difficult, but God knew all along what He was doing.

2. EVEN THE DIFFICULTIES IN YOUR STORY CAN BE _____ AROUND v 13

- When your story is unveiled, others can see the _____ of God.
- Sometimes you face trials because of poor decisions.
- When you suffer for the gospel, others take _____.

1 Peter 4:14–15 (HCSB)

If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ None of you, however, should suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or a meddler.

3. YOUR STORY MAY BE THE VERY THING SOMEONE ELSE NEEDS TO _____ v 14

- Someone may be _____ where you walked and needs to hear your story.
- Your journey of obedience may be all the courage someone needs to act.
- Your story cannot _____ if you don't tell it.

"Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened." - Billy Graham

The Next Step:

Overcome your fear of sharing your story so that someone else can be strengthened by your obedience.