



“They didn’t expect Jesus to come to them this way. Neither do we. We expect him to come in the form of peaceful hymns on Easter Sundays or quiet retreats. We expect to find Jesus in morning devotionals and meditations. We never expect to see him in a divorce or a foreclosure. We never expect to see him in a storm. But it’s in a storm that he does his finest work, for it is in storms that he has our keenest attention.” Max Lucado, *Fearless*

The _____ is a great example for us

Physical and External Persecution

- _____: stoned at Lystra, beaten by mobs, and received 39 stripes from Jewish leaders five times
- _____: imprisoned for over five years for preaching the gospel, notably in Rome and other cities
- _____: faced constant danger from his own countrymen and Gentiles, including attacks in Damascus and Ephesus
- _____: suffered from shipwreck (three times), abandonment, sleeplessness, hunger, thirst, and lack of clothing

Relational Challenges

- Opposed by former _____: hated for becoming a Christian
- Suffered harm from _____:
 - _____ the Silversmith (Acts 19:24-41)
 - _____ the Coppersmith (2 Tim 4:14)
- _____ conflict: dealt with “false brethren” and faced constant opposition to his apostolic authority
- Betrayal from _____
 - _____ deserted him due to a love for the world (2 Tim 4:10)
 - _____ deserted him on a missionary journey (Acts 13:13)
 - _____ shipwrecked their faith (1 Tim 1:18-20)
 - _____ abandoned him in Asia (2 Tim 1:15)

Internal and Emotional Challenges

- His _____: endured a persistent, agonizing “problem” (a messenger of Satan) that God would not remove

- Constant _____ for the _____: felt a daily burden for the welfare of the churches he established, dealing with false teachings and internal strife
- _____: experienced exhaustion and often described himself as a “dying” man due to the constant threat of death

Worry comes from the Old English term _____, which means: _____ or _____

“Where faith begins, anxiety ends; where anxiety begins, faith ends.” George Muller

1. What gets to us must _____ God

2. God is always _____

3. God knows how much you _____ and never allows the load to _____

4. Nothing is _____ for God

5. Others are _____ you too

- _____ (Heb 1:4)
- _____
- _____

6. Jesus _____ and _____ when you are in a storm

7. Storms are _____ to make us _____ – not _____ & _____

“The real challenge of Christian living is not to eliminate every uncomfortable circumstance from our lives, but to trust our sovereign, wise, good, and powerful God in the midst of every situation.”

J. MacArthur, *Anxiety Attacked*

“The worldling blesses God while He gives him plenty, but the Christian blesses Him when He smites him: he believes Him to be too wise to err and too good to be unkind; he trusts Him where he cannot trace Him, looks up to Him in the darkest hour, and believes that all is well.” C.H. Spurgeon, “A Happy Christian”

“God never said that the journey would be easy, but he did say that the arrival would be worthwhile. He may not do what you want, but he will do what is right ... and best. He’s the Father of forward motion. Trust Him. He will get you home. And the trials of the trip will be lost in the joys of the feast.” Max Lucado, *Safe In the Shepherd’s Arms*