

When Life Gets Hard God Brings More Meaning in Life

Romans 5:1-5 John 5:16-30

1. Think of a hard time you have faced in your life. As you were going through that hard time and as you began to recover, did you gain greater clarity about what matters most in life?

2. When life gets hard, God brings more meaning in life. God works through my loss and suffering to clarify what is most important and give me a _____ for my life.

3. When life became hard for Jesus, God, the Father, brought meaning, clarity, and grander vision to Jesus. **John 5:16-30**

- What is the backstory to this passage?

- *Because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to _____ him. John 5:16*

- Jesus responded to them, *“My Father is always at his work to this very day, **and I too am working.**” John 5:17*
How could we characterize Jesus’ response?

- ***For this reason they tried all the more to kill Jesus; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. John 5:18***
What is the response of the religious authorities?

- Jesus responds, *“Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. John 5:19-23a*

What meaning, clarity, and grander vision is God bringing to Jesus?

1) Jesus is doing _____.

2) Jesus knows that the Father _____.

3) Like the Father, Jesus is giving _____.

4) Jesus accepts that he is the one who will _____.

5) Jesus is _____.

- Jesus sums up what the Father is bringing him, *“By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for **I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.**” John 5:30*

3. In general, what is the grander vision God brings us when life gets hard?

4. We _____ in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. – The Apostle Paul Romans 5:3-5

5. Next Step: In prayerful conversation with God write your answers to:

- How have hard times helped you to clarify what is most important?
- What is a grander vision you have for your life because of going through the hard times?

Thank God for that clarity and vision. Live to fulfill that grander vision.