

Hearing Jesus Through Circumstances

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Life can be difficult and confusing. Sometimes the circumstances of life just don't make sense. Where is Jesus during these times? Is He speaking? He is. And He has a message for us, if we are willing to listen.

Four truths Jesus wants us to hear in difficult circumstances

1. Difficult circumstances reveal _____.

¹¹ "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

2. Difficult circumstances reveal _____.

⁶ So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. ⁷ Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. 1 Peter 5:6-7 (NLT)

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are a God of compassion and mercy, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. Psalm 86:15 (NLT)

3. Difficult circumstances reveal that _____.

²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. Romans 8:28 (NLT)

4. Difficult circumstances reveal _____.

⁴⁰ Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?" John 11:40 (NLT)

²⁰ Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. ²¹ Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 (NLT)

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Discussion Questions:

1. Take some time to read John 11:1-44, the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. What does it tell you about Jesus? How does this story give you hope as you face life's difficult circumstances?
2. Read Jeremiah 29:11. What does this do for your heart as you consider the difficult circumstances you are currently facing? Does it give you hope?
3. Share with one another the difficult circumstance stories from your life. Were you able to hear Jesus in your circumstances? What did you hear?
4. Read 1 Peter 5:6-7 and Psalm 86:15. How does that fact that Jesus cares for you change your outlook on your difficult circumstances?
5. How easy or how difficult is it for you to rest in the knowledge that God is in control of your difficult circumstances?
6. Can you think of a time in which God's glory was seen through your circumstances? Shares stories with one another and be encouraged!