

Adversity University

The Bible is full of stories of people who waited in adversity while God remained silent.

Joseph, David, Job are some examples. However, our greatest example is Christ Himself.

*“For you were called to this (adversity), because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow His steps.”
1 Peter 2:21 CSB*

“Keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfection of our faith. For the joy that lay before Him, He endured to the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2 CSB

So Christ’s suffering is our pattern. The adversity He faced is our example. No doubt the silence from the Heavenly Father was on one the most torturous aspects of His suffering. During our adversity:

His silence is no excuse for ours.

“Father forgive them...”

Often express our displeasure with someone by being silent. That is not God’s purpose.

His silence compels us to focus on the needs of others.

“Mother, behold your Son...”

“Today you will be with us in paradise.”

Take His silence as an opportunity to obey what He has already commanded you to do. The assistance of others may even alleviate the pain you are experiencing. Turn your pity into compassion.

His silence may force you to allow others to comfort you in your pain.

“I thirst”

There are those around you who are waiting to come along side you and minister to your needs. His unwillingness to comfort may be God’s way of breaking a stronghold of self-sufficiency.

His silence may cause you to express your real emotions before God.

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

This was a quote from David who learned to genuinely express His feelings toward God. There is no pretension in this statement. A prolonged silence by the Father during our adversity has a way of stripping off the veneer of our religiosity.

His silence will end when the purpose for it has been accomplished.

“It is finished!”

It may mean that the adversity is coming to an end. Or it may just mean the purpose for His silence is accomplished.

Application

I want to caution you not to mistake God's silence for your unwillingness to listen.

He may have been speaking to you through *His Word* if you would only *read* it.

He may have been trying to speak to you through your *pastor* but you've been unwilling to listen.

He may have been trying to console you through *His spirit* but you have been so fleshly minded that His voice has not be heard.

Blessing

May the peace of God surround you, the love of God sustain you, and may the wisdom of God direct your steps. Amen