

**Notes – How is Jesus VISIBLE during tough times?
July 18-19, 2019 Scotty Matta, Compelled Church**

I. TENSION

- a. Life is tough – we always want to know “why?”.
- b. COVID-19 and this global pandemic has been a tough time.
- c. I believe we are either in the midst of a tough time, coming out of hard times, or headed for difficulty.
- d. Jesus says we can expect hard times, that we have to be ready for tough times, and we need to show compassion to those who suffer.

II. TRUTH

- a. Paul knows tough times. He was imprisoned, flogged, beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, gone without sleep and food, and been in danger from various elements.
- b. 2 Corinthians 4:7-11 NIV
- c. 2 Corinthians 4:8-10 NIV
 - i. Pressed but not crushed
 - ii. Perplexed but not driven to despair
 - iii. Persecuted but not abandoned
 - iv. Struck down but not destroyed
- d. How is Jesus visible during tough times? By living the crucified life! (Gal 2:20)
- e. Big Answer – God will risk your life to save your soul!

III. APPLICATION

- a. I must expect hard times (1 Peter 4:12)
- b. I must prepare for tough times (1 Peter 4:1)
- c. I must have compassion for those who suffer (1 Cor. 12:26, 2 Tim. 2:3)

IV. LANDING

- a. When life gets tough, the best way to respond is with praise and worship!

Discussion Questions

- 1.) Does the realization that we are treasure troves filled with God’s spirit change the way you view tough times?
- 2.) What is your typical response to tough times?
- 3.) Read 2 Corinthians 4:8,9
 - a. What are some pictures that come to mind that show these truths?
 - b. What are some times in your life where you felt like this? Be encouraged to share these stories with others to testify of God’s goodness!
- 4.) What are some other scriptures you turn to when going through a hard time?
- 5.) How can we show compassion to someone who is suffering?