



# I Can Walk Through Any Devastation

June 10, 2018



# Troubled by Trouble

- **Psalm 138:7** PASSION

“By your mighty power I can walk through any devastation...”

- **sārāh**: trouble, distress, anguish; a situation or time of extreme discomfort; dire straits



It's great that God's power can get us through but don't you wish when it came to trouble that there was an opt out button?



## John Calvin on Troubles

“... by nature we are so delicately averse to suffering as to wish that we might all live safely beyond shot of its arrows, and shrink from close contact with the fear of death, as something altogether intolerable. On the slightest approach of danger we are immoderately afraid, as if our emergencies precluded the hope of Divine deliverance.

## John Calvin on Troubles

“... God humbles his children under various trials, that his defense of them may be the more remarkable, and that he may show himself to be their deliverer. ... And from all this we are taught, that it is God’s method to exercise his children with a continual conflict, that, having one foot as it were in the grave, they may flee with alarm to hide themselves under his wings, where they may abide in peace.” [Calvin’s Commentary on Psalm 138]

# Follow Jesus and Trouble May Follow You

- **Luke 9:23** NIV

“Then he said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.’”

- **Luke 9:23** CJB

“... If anyone wants to come after me, let him say “No” to himself, take up his execution-stake daily and keep following me.”

# Follow Jesus and Trouble May Follow You

- **Matthew 10:22a** NIV

“You will be hated by everyone because of me.”



## Ezekiel 1:1-3 NIV

“In my thirtieth year, in the fourth month on the fifth day, while I was among the exiles by the Kebar River, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God. <sup>2</sup> On the fifth of the month—it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin — <sup>3</sup> the word of the Lord came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, by the Kebar River in the land of the Babylonians. There the hand of the Lord was on him.”

## Troubled by Troubles

- Being seized by, mastered by God is what gives Ezekiel willingness to do what God says and ability to endure the tsārāh (trouble) he is in
- Our troubles? God will use them to master us with his love and affirm our identity as a son, as a daughter

# A Key to Listening in the Hard Place

- **Psalm 138:1a** PASSION

“I thank you, Lord, and with all the passion of my heart...”

- “When I’m not attempting to put health and expectations into words, when I’m simply experiencing what Father is doing in me despite my current circumstances, I am amazed and overwhelmed with gratitude.” [email, June 3, 2018]

## A Key to Listening in the Hard Place

- The practice of thanking God is a way of positioning ourselves to hear God's voice because when we are thanking we are operating in the realm of His presence and reality
- **Matthew 6:33** PASSION  
“So above all, constantly chase after the realm of God's kingdom and the righteousness that proceeds from him. Then all these less important things will be given to you abundantly.”

# God Keeps His Word

- **Psalm 138:8** PASSION

“You keep every promise you’ve ever made to me! Since your love for me is constant and endless, I ask you, Lord, to finish every good thing that you’ve begun in me!”

## **A Word from the God Who Keeps His Word**

“There’s nothing you need to do to jumpstart the word I gave you. I haven’t lost track of it and I do not need your help fulfilling it. That you are resolved not to miss it, or anything connected with it, is good. But take my word for it: you aren’t going to miss it, not one thing. I guarantee it. So, pace and rest. There’s nothing for you to do. Nothing but enjoy being my son, enjoy being my daughter.”

# A Word from the God Who Keeps His Word

- **Jeremiah 1:12** NAS

“Then the LORD said to me, ‘You have seen well, for I am watching over My word to perform it.’”



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