

TRIALS THAT REHEARSE US

Mark 4:17 ... “and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the Word’s [Christ’s] sake, immediately they stumble.”

In our previous devotional, we spoke of trials that train us to persevere. Today we will discuss trials and tests that rehearse us for something bigger coming your way. When actors are making movies, they practice (rehearse) their parts and scenes several times before the cameras roll. Actors in stage plays rehearse together for days, even weeks, before considering themselves ready for a real performance. Singers and bands rehearse for many hours to perfect their performance before presenting their music to an audience. Basketball teams practice before playing real games. Pastors sometimes rehearse their sermons prior to sharing them with the church. Even armies and navies conduct practice wars before engaging their enemies.

Rehearsals are a big part of life for everyone. You can tell how good a carpenter is, by watching him build your house. The difference between a bad carpenter and a good carpenter, is the amount of practice he has had. The same is true of teachers, artists, drivers, farmers, fishermen, welders, cooks, dressmakers, and doctors. Any skill that a person has, is backed up by many hours of training and practice. Not only does God understand this principle, but he invented it. Most of the characters we read about in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, started their lives and ministries making mistakes that gradually improved the longer they worked at it. You can see this in the life of David, who took on the giant with a small rock, mostly out of arrogance. Yes, God chose him for that task and God empowered him to defeat the giant, but David also had an attitude about it. Over his lifetime, David frequently demonstrated arrogance or superiority over others. But he also repented of his sins, asked God for help, and God was able to use him. Practice paid off.

Today, you may be facing what seems like a relatively small trial in your life. Perhaps you are sick with a cold, or ran out of money to buy gas for your motorcycle, or the job you were counting on did not come your way. These are small troubles that you can easily overcome. But, consider that every small trial you experience, could be a rehearsal for something more difficult. God may test you with a cold, to prepare you for a major illness; he wants you to demonstrate trust in him before the real hardship comes. You may need a few Pesos for gas today, but you may need a lot of Pesos next week for something major; how will you handle that stress? The income you were hoping for today, may give you a taste of the faith you will need to go for a month without income.

The small trials you face will better prepare you for more trouble to come, and deepen your faith in God for the help you will then need.

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