Trials by Fire

Justin Mock · 1 Peter 1:3–7

INTRODUCTION

- The process of refining gold is involved, and quite frankly, it can be pretty brutal.
- And yet the outcome of this tough, brutal process, yields something desirable.
- If my life is not yet over, my tests are not yet over. At some point, I'm going to have to go through more difficulties, more struggles, more trials and tests.

1 Trials Reveal the Authenticity of Our Faith

1 Peter 1:7; Genesis 37:25

- We need to keep in mind the trials reveal the authenticity of our faith. Is your faith real?
- Peter says that the trials test the genuineness of our faith.
- It is so much easier to be faithful here than when you walk out those doors.
- Much like fire proves the purity of gold, the real gold can withstand the harshness of the process.
- Trials in our lives, whether loss or injustice or hardship, those things reveal whether our faith is rooted in God or whether it's rooted in fleeting circumstances.
- The difficulties you face in life not only reveal your level of faith, but they show you the reality of your faith.

2 Trials Help Refine Our Faith

Genesis 37:3–11

- They help refine our faith by taking away the impurities, by taking away those things that are not representative of our Heavenly Father.
- Not only do the trials and tests reveal our faith, they serve to make that faith better.
- As the chemicals and intense heat have their effect on gold as it's being refined, everything that is not gold slowly falls away.
- Joseph says in verse 16 to Pharaoh, it is not in me. God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer. Do you see any refinement here?
- Discipline is trying to help children understand how to be disciplined people. It's about guidance, it's about training, it's about testing.
- He wants you to be a perfect reflection of him. And these tests help us to weed out those things that don't belong.

3 Refined Faith Leads to God's Glory and Praise

1 Peter 1:7; Genesis 45:4–8; Genesis 50:15–20

- Refined faith, the result of the challenges and the difficulties that we go through leads to God's glory and praise.
- And if there is no praise, and if there is no glorifying of God as you go through your difficulty, you're doing it wrong.
- If I have to go through difficult things, times in life that truly put my faith to the test, but God can be praised and glorified through it. It's worth it.
- I've gotten through them not because I am good, but because God is.
- Not only is he capable, but he is willing to turn what we perceive as bad things into good things.
- As for you, verse 20, you meant it for evil against me, but God meant it for good.

THE CHALLENGE

Have you been refined? Not have you been tested. We've all been tested, and we're probably all being tested right now to some extent, but have you been refined?

MY NOTES