

D&C Lesson 28

Adversity – DC 121, 122

Introduction

Context	<p>March, 1939. The saints in Missouri have seen suffering and persecution beyond imagination. Joseph and Hyrum Smith, Parley P. Pratt, John Taylor, and other leaders have been imprisoned at a jail called Libery Jail, in Clay County, the northern border of Jackson County which is the epicenter of the persecution. They are awaiting trial. While the saints are suffering so much, Joseph and others are enduring even worse.</p> <p>How would you describe Liberty Jail?</p>
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Joseph’s Heart was Pure

DC 121:1-6	<p>How would you describe Joseph’s heart?</p> <p>The critics of Joseph Smith claim he was an imposter, a false prophet. What would a real imposter have been feeling at this time?</p>
?	<p>What were Joseph’s doubts and fears?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God was not going to intervene - The saints would continue to suffer much longer - The Church might not survive - Emma and his children – would they make it?
?	<p>Did he doubt God?</p> <p>Did he doubt himself?</p>
?	<p>What do we learn about our doubts and fears?</p>

Where art Thou?

DC 121:1 Where art Thou?	<p>Where art thou?</p> <p>Are You still there?</p> <p>Do you still care about us? Do we really matter to you?</p> <p>What have we done to deserve your silence?</p>
?	<p>Are these some of the questions we ask in our extremities?</p> <p>What other questions like this might we ask when our pain is great?</p>
DC 121:2	<p>How long will You wait?</p>

How long?	<p>What is your timetable?</p> <p>What can I do to get you to act now, when we need you badly?</p> <p>Why are you waiting?</p>
?	<p>When does the Lord finally intervene?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When we have learned what He wants us to learn - When we have done our part, we allow God to do His
Elain Cannon Adversity, Page 47	<p><i>“When we are pushed, stung, defeated, embarrassed, hurt, rejected, tormented, forgotten – when we are in agony of spirit crying out ‘why me?’ we are in a position to learn something.”</i></p>
Orson F. Whitney	<p><i>No pain that we suffer, no trial that we experience is wasted. It ministers to our education, to the development of such qualities as patience, faith, fortitude and humility. All that we suffer and all that we endure, especially when we endure it patiently, builds up our characters, purifies our hearts, expands our souls, and makes us more tender and charitable, more worthy to be called the children of God... and it is through sorrow and suffering, toil and tribulation, that we gain the education that we come here to acquire...</i></p>
?	<p>If we do not do our part, whatever we can do, will God still fix things for us? Why not?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our agency is key

The Lord’s Reply – DC 121:7-10

DC 121:7-10	<p>What does the Lord mean “but for a small moment”?</p> <p>What happened to Job?</p>
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The Lord’s Reply – Time appointed for every man

DC 121:25	<p>Time appointed for every man...</p> <p>What does the Lord mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The time of our death is appointed - We will not be taken until our work is finished
DC 122:9	<p>What does it mean “their bounds are set, they cannot pass”?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a line our Adversary cannot pass and his minions will not be allowed to cross - God’s power is infinite. Lucifer’s power is not.
Elder Neal A.	<p><i>It is not surprising that the Lord, whose plans Joseph was</i></p>

Maxwell, But for a Small Moment , p.9	<i>carrying out, would reassure him that he would not be taken before his time. All men have a time appointed when we will stand before the judgment bar of God. It is the author's opinion that each of us mortals has a time frame appointed within which we are permitted to do our work in this world (see Alma 12:27; D&C 42:48;D& C 121:25). "Revelations" and "things" occur in their times (see D&C 59:4;D&C 64:32); so also with people.</i>
DC 42:44, 48	What does it mean, “appointed unto death”?

The Lord’s Reply – DC 122:5-9

DC 122:5-9	Read
7	...all these things shall give thee experience, and shall be for thy good
8	The Son of Man hath descended below them all...
9	... for their bounds are set, they cannot pass. Thy days are known and thy years shall not be numbered less;
9	...fear not what man can do, for God shall be with you forever and ever

Testify: we must learn to depend on Him as our source of strength and hope.

Footprints in the Sand

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking in a field with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the snow; one belonged to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the snow. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it. "LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me.

The LORD replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."