

When Things Don't go According to Plan

Acts 24-26

Main Idea

God has a purpose in our trials and is with us as we go through them.

I. God has a purpose in our trials

Luke 21:12-13 (ESV)

But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness.

Acts 9:15 (ESV)

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,^[a] for those who are called according to his purpose.

II. If we are following Jesus we should expect trials

James 1:2-4

Count it all joy, my brothers,^[a] when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

John 16:13 (ESV)

¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

III. God is with us in our trials

Psalm 46:1 (ESV)

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present^[b] help in trouble.

Philippians 4:13 (ESV)

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

IV. We should keep speaking for God in our trials

My Next Step Today is:

- a. Memorize Romans 8:28
- b. Allow God to use your pain to help others
- c. Practice sharing your testimony
- d. Pray that God would help you see unbelievers as He sees them