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Letting Your Hard Times Help You
Luke 7:1-10
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The entire world is grieving the loss of Muhammad Ali. He was the greatest of all time. The contradiction of his life caused people to revere him. The contradiction was that in his earlier life he would take fighters heads off, but later in life, he became one of the greatest ambassadors of peace the world would ever know.

Hard times will hurt you; they will injure you, and have the power to discourage you. What equally true is that hard times can strengthen us. Hard times can help us if we let them.

1) **Hard Times Will Teach You Humility**

Hard times are the faculty in the graduate school of hard knocks. Pain will alter your perspective and difficulties will bring you down from your self-aggrandize pedestal. The difficulty of the Roman centurion caused him to humble himself and call on Jesus to help him in his time of desperation and season of being powerless.

Hard times will show up, ring you doorbell, sit at your kitchen table, and give you a dose of humility. We should approach the Lord with humility and not arrogance. Hard times will have you call on the name of Jesus.

2) **Hard Times Will Filter Your Friends**

You don't know who's really on your side until hard times get your address. The Centurion sent advocates (The Elders of the Jews, influential Jewish leaders) to Jesus on his behalf so that his servant could be healed.

The Jews hated the Roman Government, Roman soldiers, and others, yet they acted on the Centurion's behalf when he fell on hard times. When hard times hit, watch who falls away and who stays close. Observe who's talking about you and who's talking to you; who is distant and disappears and who is nice and near; because hard times will filter your friends. The Centurion friends showed themselves friendly during the Centurion's hard time because he showed himself friendly during good times.

3) **Hard Times Will Show That The Lord Responds To Faith And Not Fame**

Jesus was not concerned about the Centurion's fame; rather, Jesus was concerned because the Centurion showed great faith during the illness of his servant. When you want to get the attention of Jesus we must respond to hard times with faith. Jesus released healing power on behalf of the Centurion because of his faith.

We may not have fancy homes and bling, but we can all have faith. God only responds to those who have faith. Faith plus God on your side is a prescription for a blessing, and a miracle. The greatest tool in your toolbox is faith. When hard times come in your life, let your faith in God help you.

