

DIFFICULT, DIFFICULTIES, TEDIOUS

Farming is now much more **difficult** than it was before Adam ate of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

- **Genesis 3:17-19:** "And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

Because Adam ate the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, his life would be **difficult** and full of sorrow.

- **Genesis 3:17:** "And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;"

When Isaac became wealthy, that made his life more **difficult**. (He was forced to leave.)

- **Genesis 26:13, 16:** "And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: ... And Abimelech said unto Isaac, Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we."

When Jacob and his household left Bethel and were near Ephrath, Rachel struggled with **difficult** labor.

- **Genesis 35:16:** "And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour."

There are time when being faithful to God makes life more **difficult** and causes us to suffer in ways we otherwise wouldn't have had to suffer. (Joseph's faithfulness got him cast into prison.)

- **Genesis 39:20:** "And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison."

The path that led the Israelites by the way of the Red Sea was **difficult**.

- **Numbers 21:4:** "And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way."

Balaam said that counting the fourth part of the Israelites would be **difficult**. He compared it to counting the dust. (In other words, the nation of Israel would one day grow to be very large.)

- **Numbers 23:10:** "Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!"

There were times when Moses brought **difficult** cases to God so that He could pass judgment on them.

- **Numbers 27:5:** "And Moses brought their cause before the LORD."

The Israelites were **difficult** to govern.

- **Deuteronomy 1:9:** "And I spake unto you at that time, saying, I am not able to bear you myself alone:"

After the Israelites left Horeb, God led them through a terrible and **difficult** wilderness.

- **Deuteronomy 1:19:** "And when we departed from Horeb, we went through all that great and terrible wilderness, which ye saw by the way of the mountain of the Amorites, as the LORD our God commanded us; and we came to Kadeshbarnea."

Moses told the Israelites that if a dispute arose which was too **difficult** for them to judge, they were to go to the place where God put His name (so a priest could judge the case).

- **Deuteronomy 17:8-9:** "If there arise a matter too hard for thee in judgment, between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, being matters of controversy within thy gates: then shalt thou arise, and get thee up into the place which the LORD thy God shall choose; And thou shalt come unto the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and enquire; and they shall shew thee the sentence of judgment:"

David said God would be unsavory to those who were **difficult** and rebellious.

- **2 Samuel 22:27:** "With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself unsavoury."

When Naaman gave Gehazi two talents of silver and two changes of clothing, he had two of his servants carry them for Gehazi. (It would have been **difficult** for Gehazi to carry two changes of clothing and 150 pounds of silver all by himself.)

- **2 Kings 5:23:** "And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him."

The way the queen of Sheba tested Solomon was by asking him **difficult** questions.

- **2 Chronicles 9:1:** "And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to prove Solomon with hard questions at Jerusalem, with a very great company, and camels that bare spices, and gold in abundance, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart."

Mordecai was a **difficult** person to work with. (When Esther pointed out to him that she could be put to death for going before the king without permission, Mordecai didn't care. Instead of praying, inquiring of God, or looking for a way to

resolve this problem that didn't put Esther's life in danger, he immediately threatened her instead.)

- **Esther 4:10-11, 13:** "Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai; All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or women, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days. ... Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews."

We must accept the **difficult** things that God brings into our life.

- **Job 2:10:** "But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips."

Eliphaz seemed to be unaware that sometimes wicked people live in nice cities and have nice houses (although how he could be unaware of this is **difficult** to understand). His claim that the wicked live in ruined houses and empty cities isn't true.

- **Job 15:28:** "And he dwelleth in desolate cities, and in houses which no man inhabiteth, which are ready to become heaps."

Eliphaz seemed to be unaware that sometimes wicked people

are wealthy and live long lives, and pass on their possessions to their children (although how he could be unaware of this is **difficult** to understand). His claim that the wicked are poor and die penniless isn't true.

- **Job 15:29:** "He shall not be rich, neither shall his substance continue, neither shall he prolong the perfection thereof upon the earth."

Zophar claimed that the wicked have **difficult** lives (which isn't always true).

- **Job 20:22:** "In the fulness of his sufficiency he shall be in straits: every hand of the wicked shall come upon him."

There may be times when God makes our life **difficult** (to test us).

- **Psalms 11:4-5:** "The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth."

God gives us the strength we need to walk in **difficult** and treacherous places.

- **Psalms 18:33:** "He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me upon my high places."

It's **difficult** for us to tell when we're sinning in ignorance.

- **Psalms 19:12:** "Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults."

It's good to pray that God would make the path of our enemies **difficult** so that they'll fall (and be unable to carry out their evil plans).

- **Psalm 35:6:** "Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the angel of the LORD persecute them."

There are times when God's rebuke is **difficult** to bear.

- **Psalm 38:2:** "For thine arrows stick fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore."

Our sin can make our life **difficult** to bear.

- **Psalm 38:3:** "There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin."

There may be times when remaining silent is very **difficult** and fills us with sorrow.

- **Psalm 39:2:** "I was dumb with silence, I held my peace, even from good; and my sorrow was stirred."

Psalm 49 contains dark sayings. (This means its material is **difficult** to understand.)

- **Psalm 49:4:** "I will incline mine ear to a parable: I will open my dark saying upon the harp."

There are times when having a clean heart makes life more

difficult.

- **Psalm 73:13-14:** "Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning."

Going into the God's presence can help us understand things that are **difficult** to understand.

- **Psalm 73:16-17:** "When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end."

In ancient times it was **difficult** to cut down thick trees.

- **Psalm 74:5:** "A man was famous according as he had lifted up axes upon the thick trees."

Asaph he wasn't going to hide **difficult** material from the next generation.

- **Psalm 78:2, 4:** "I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: ... We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done."

It's good to pray that God would give us strength so we can endure **difficult** times.

- **Psalm 119:28:** "My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word."

Cold weather can be **difficult** to survive.

- **Psalms 147:17:** "He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?"

We should exercise discretion and understanding so we can be delivered from those who are **difficult** to deal with.

- **Proverbs 2:11-12, 15:** "Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; ... Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:"

God is angry with those who are **difficult** and troublesome.

- **Proverbs 3:32:** "For the froward is abomination to the LORD: but his secret is with the righteous."

It's an evil thing to have a froward mouth. (In other words, people who are **difficult** to get along with, and are argumentative and hostile, are evil in God's sight.)

- **Proverbs 4:24:** "Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee."
- **Proverbs 6:12:** "A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth."

Wives shouldn't be hostile, cruel, or **difficult** toward their husbands.

- **Proverbs 5:18-19:** "Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving

hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love."

When a wicked person sins he's making his life more **difficult**.

- **Proverbs 5:22:** "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins."

Those whose hearts are full of hate, and are **difficult** and hostile, will suddenly be broken without remedy. (When their day of judgments comes there will be no way for them to escape.)

- **Proverbs 6:14-15:** "Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord. Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy."

We must hate speech that's froward (deliberately **difficult** and hateful).

- **Proverbs 8:13:** "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."

It's a terrible thing to speak words that are hateful, cruel, and deliberately **difficult**.

- **Proverbs 10:31:** "The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out."

Those who are hateful and **difficult** to deal with are wicked.

- **Proverbs 10:32:** "The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness."

God doesn't want us to be contrary and **difficult** to deal with.

- **Proverbs 11:20:** "They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight."

What matters isn't our circumstances in life, but our attitude. A bad attitude can turn a good day into a bad one, while a good attitude can find joy in **difficult** circumstances.

- **Proverbs 15:15:** "All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast."

The life of those who are lazy is **difficult** and full of problems.

- **Proverbs 15:19:** "The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain."

It's bad to be contrary and **difficult** to deal with.

- **Proverbs 16:28:** "A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends."

Friends should help one another through **difficult** times.

- **Proverbs 17:17:** "A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

Those who are **difficult** to deal with are hurting themselves.

- **Proverbs 17:20:** "He that hath a froward heart findeth no good: and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief."

It's **difficult** to win back family members who have been offended.

- **Proverbs 18:19:** "A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle."

It's **difficult** to find someone who's faithful.

- **Proverbs 20:6:** "Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?"

Being difficult and rebellious doesn't make life better. Instead it makes it worse.

- **Proverbs 22:5:** "Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them."

Being hungry can skew your judgment. It makes it **difficult** to see things as they are.

- **Proverbs 27:7:** "The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet."

Being rich can skew your judgment. It makes it **difficult** to understand things, because the rich may become conceited and trust in themselves.

- **Proverbs 28:11:** "The rich man is wise in his own conceit; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out."

It takes wisdom to live among the rocks (which are **difficult** and hard places).

- **Proverbs 30:24, 26:** "There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise: ... The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;"

It's **difficult** to find a virtuous woman.

- **Proverbs 31:10:** "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies."

The labor that we do in this life is frustrating and **difficult**.

- **Ecclesiastes 2:22:** "For what hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun?"

It's empty and unsatisfying to make our lives **difficult** through hard work, and yet no one reaps the benefits of that labor.

- **Ecclesiastes 4:8:** "There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and

bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail."

It's harder to get through **difficult** times by ourselves, without anyone's help.

- **Ecclesiastes 4:10-11:** "For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?"

Although old age is **difficult** and our years may no longer make us happy, the Bible never presents suicide as an option. Instead it presents the difficulties of old age as something we must endure.

- **Ecclesiastes 12:1:** "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;"

When people grow old it becomes **difficult** to speak.

- **Ecclesiastes 12:4:** "And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low;"

There are times when God punishes people by telling them the truth in a way that makes it **difficult** to understand.

- **Isaiah 28:10-11:** "For precept must be upon precept,

precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people."

Only being shown one piece at a time (instead of the big picture) makes things **difficult** to understand.

- **Isaiah 28:10-11:** "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people."

There are times when God makes people's lives **difficult** (so they'll repent of their sins and learn to do what's right).

- **Isaiah 30:20:** "And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers:"

The Israelites found it **difficult** to believe that God's promises could ever come true. (However, God *always* keeps His promises.)

- **Isaiah 49:21:** "Then shalt thou say in thine heart, Who hath begotten me these, seeing I have lost my children, and am desolate, a captive, and removing to and fro? and who hath brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; these, where had they been?"

Even though the path of the Jews was **difficult**, the people didn't grieve over their idolatry or repent.

- **Isaiah 57:10:** "Thou art wearied in the greatness of thy way; yet saidst thou not, There is no hope: thou hast found the life of thine hand; therefore thou wast not grieved."

There are times when God gives people a **difficult** life, and there's nothing that can be done except to suffer through it. (God told Jeremiah that his life wasn't going to get better. Instead it was going to become even worse, because terrible times were coming.)

- **Jeremiah 12:5:** "If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?"

God didn't send Ezekiel to a nation that spoke a **difficult** language. (Instead He sent him to the Jews, and yet the Jews refused to listen to him.)

- **Ezekiel 3:5-7:** "For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, but to the house of Israel; Not to many people of a strange speech and of an hard language, whose words thou canst not understand. Surely, had I sent thee to them, they would have hearkened unto thee. But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted."

The three Jews told Nebuchadnezzar that it wasn't a **difficult** decision. They weren't going to worship his idol, even if it cost them their lives.

- **Daniel 3:16-18:** "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

Daniel knew how to explain sentences that were **difficult** to understand.

- **Daniel 5:12:** "Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation."

It can be **difficult** and physically demanding to receive a prophetic vision.

- **Daniel 8:27:** "And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it."

Even though Daniel sought this prophetic information and God gave it to him, it was still **difficult** for him to receive it.

- **Daniel 10:15:** "And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb."

There are times when God puts us in difficult situations in order to proclaim His message and minister to others. (God commanded Hosea to marry a sexually immoral woman and have children with her. When she wasn't faithful and left him, God then commanded him to go and get her back. God used Hosea's suffering and painful family life to proclaim His message to His people.)

- **Hosea 1:2, 8-9:** "The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD. ... Now when she had weaned Loruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son. Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God."

Since the Israelites refused to repent, God was going to make it more **difficult** for them to keep sinning (to guide them to righteousness).

- **Hosea 2:6:** "Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths."

It will be **difficult** to survive the Day of the Lord (the tribulation era). That will be an extremely horrific time.

- **Joel 2:11:** "And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?"

God *always* keeps His promises and does what He says He'll do. Even promises that seem impossible or unlikely aren't difficult for Him.

- **Zechariah 8:6:** "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts."

God warned that it was going to be **difficult** for people to survive the Messiah's appearance.

- **Malachi 3:1-2:** "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:"

Jesus knew that teaching in parables made Him more **difficult** to understand. (The reason Jesus taught in parables was to *hide* what He was saying, not to reveal it.)

- **Matthew 13:10-11:** "And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given."

Prayer and fasting can cast out **difficult** demons.

- **Matthew 17:19, 21:** "Then came the disciples to Jesus

apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? ... Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."

If we're unwilling to give our life to Jesus then we can't be saved. Since it's **difficult** for the rich to do that, it's hard for them to be saved.

- **Matthew 19:23-24:** "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."
- **Mark 10:23:** "And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!"
- **Luke 18:24-25:** "And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

The disciples were amazed to learn that it was **difficult** for the rich to be saved.

- **Matthew 19:23, 25:** "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. ... When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?"
- **Mark 10:23-26:** "And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches

enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?"

In the tribulation era, people will have to endure very **difficult** hardships to be saved.

- **Matthew 24:13, 21:** "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. ... For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

In the tribulation era, when the abomination of desolation appears in the holy place of the temple, life would become **difficult** for those who were pregnant or nursing.

- **Matthew 24:15, 19:** "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) ... And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!"
- **Luke 21:23:** "But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people."

It would be a catastrophe for the abomination of desolation to appear on the Sabbath day. (There are transportation

restrictions on the Sabbath that make it **difficult** to flee. How can you flee if you can't travel?)

- **Matthew 24:20-21:** "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

It would be a catastrophe for the abomination of desolation to appear in the winter. (The cold weather would make it harder and more **difficult** to flee.)

- **Matthew 24:20:** "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:"

The crucifixion was very **difficult** for Jesus. Even the moments before He was arrested was agonizing.

- **Mark 14:34:** "And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch."
- **Luke 12:50:** "But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!"

When the Sadducees tried to trap Jesus with a **difficult** question, they called Him "Master". (It seems they were trying to flatter Him.)

- **Luke 20:28:** "Saying, Master, Moses wrote unto us, If any man's brother die, having a wife, and he die without children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother."

The religious leaders were unable to trap Jesus with **difficult** questions.

- **Luke 20:40:** "And after that they durst not ask him any question at all."

When the religious leaders realized that Jesus was able to answer their most **difficult** questions, they stopped asking Him anything. (It seems they didn't actually have any interest in getting their questions answered.)

- **Luke 20:40:** "And after that they durst not ask him any question at all."

It was **difficult** for Paul and Barnabas to stop the people of Lystra from making a sacrifice to them.

- **Acts 14:18:** "And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them."

Paul was affected by the persecution he suffered. It made his life **difficult** and filled it with tears.

- **Acts 20:19:** "Serving the LORD with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:"

Tertullus claimed the reason he was going to keep his case against Paul short was to avoid being **tedious** to the governor. (The reality is Paul wasn't guilty of anything and the Jews had no actual case to bring against him.)

- **Acts 24:4:** "Notwithstanding, that I be not further tedious unto thee, I pray thee that thou wouldest hear us of thy clemency a few words."

It was **difficult** for the sailors to bring the boat that the ship was towing on board (possibly because of the fierce winds).

- **Acts 27:16:** "And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat:"

There are times when it's God's will to give people a **difficult** and painful life.

- **1 Corinthians 4:9:** "For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men."

The apostles lived **difficult** and painful lives. They suffered more than other Christians.

- **1 Corinthians 4:9:** "For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men."
- **1 Corinthians 4:11:** "Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;"

The reason Paul told the Corinthian church how **difficult** the lives of the apostles were was to warn them.

- **1 Corinthians 4:14:** "I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you."

We must be careful about what we eat and drink, to ensure that our diet doesn't make it more **difficult** to share the gospel. We must not allow anything in our life to interfere with spreading of the gospel.

- **1 Corinthians 10:31-33:** "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."

The last visit Paul made to the Corinthian church had been a **difficult** and painful one. He didn't want to do that again.

- **2 Corinthians 2:1:** "But I determined this with myself, that I would not come again to you in heaviness."

It was **difficult** for Paul to decide if he wanted to continue to live, or leave this world to be with Jesus. (In the end he decided that he wanted to remain in this world so he could continue to serve the churches.)

- **Philippians 1:22-23:** "But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:"

It's good to be patient in **difficult** situations.

- **Colossians 3:13:** "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

Paul was gentle, but he made it **difficult** for Philemon to refuse to free Onesimus. (How could Philemon, who was the leader of a church that met in his own home, refuse to allow Onesimus to help Paul spread the gospel?)

- **Philemon 1:13:** "Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:"
- **Philemon 1:20:** "Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord."

We must care about Christians who are going through **difficult** times. They're part of the family of Christ, and we should consider ourselves to be suffering along with them.

- **Hebrews 13:3:** "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body."