



The Perfect Storm, Pt. 1: A Shocking Realization and Silver Lining

When it rains, it pours. You've probably been through a day (or a season) where you felt like whatever could go wrong, went wrong. What do you do when you feel like all sides are crushing in on you? How do you navigate through the storm? The small New Testament letter of James offers some straight-forward instructions for this very question.

Bottom Line: Never underestimate what God can accomplish in a perfect storm.

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe a time when you've experienced a "When it rains, it pours" season. What did you learn during that season?
2. **Read James 1:1.** Why do you think James introduces himself as a "servant" (Gk. *doulos*, which means bond-servant, or slave)?
3. Why isn't it more common for Christians today to think of themselves as "slaves" of God? Why is it so difficult to even say it out loud?
4. What would change about your life if you lived as a "slave" of Jesus? What would be the upside? The downside?
5. **Read Acts 7:59 - 8:4.** The persecution of Christians which began in A.D. 34/35 made them refugees from their homes as they were scattered beyond Jerusalem. They experienced a "perfect storm" as they were murdered and rounded up and put in jail. What is the "silver lining" in their experience? What is surprising to you about this "silver lining" if anything?
6. What was the most challenging idea/thought to you from the message?
7. What was the most helpful/encouraging thought or idea from the message this week? How did it help you?
8. How can the group encourage you this week?