

He's Been Faithful

Robert sat down next to his dad's hospital bed and grasped his hand. The heart monitor beeped the welcome sound of a steady beat. "I just talked to the doctor, Dad. He seems optimistic that your heart will be fine and that you will make a full recovery," Robert reassured his father, Mark. "Yes, God has been good to me," Mark said with a satisfying smile.

"Dad, how do you remain so optimistic when your life has been so tough?" Robert asked. "You've been so faithful to God, but it seems as if He has not been faithful to you."

"Son, everything God has brought my way has been for my own good. He has led me through the deep waters of your mom's illness and death. He was with me through my bout with cancer. He has sustained me while your sister continues to run from Him," Mark responded with quiet confidence. "He's been faithful to me."

1. What would be the natural response to the trials that Mark endured?
2. Read Ruth 1. Contrast Ruth's reaction (vv. 16, 17) to the hardships with Naomi's reaction to them (vv. 20, 21)? Whose reaction does Mark reflect in response to trials?
3. Why can't we use our circumstances to gage God's faithfulness to us?
4. Read Lamentations 3:22–24. Based on what you learn about God from this verse, what adjustments, if any, do you need to make in the way you respond to trials?