



“All These Things Are Against Me!”

(Genesis 42:29-38)

From Jacob’s perspective, everything was going wrong. He believed his beloved son Joseph

had been devoured by a wild beast. He was trying to survive a brutal, life-threatening famine. He had sent ten of his sons to Egypt to buy grain, but the Egyptians held his son Simeon captive and instructed the other sons to bring Benjamin back with them if they ever wanted to buy grain again. The thought of losing Benjamin was too much for Jacob to bear, and he cried out, “**All these things are against me!**” (Gen. 42:36).

Actually, the opposite was true. All these apparent setbacks were working together for good. Little did Jacob know that his family would be saved from famine, none of his sons would be harmed, and he would have a joyful reunion with Joseph whom he thought had died. **Jacob could have approached these setbacks in faith:** “Lord, I don’t know why all these terrible things are happening, but You know and You care about me and my family. Lord, I’m trusting You to help me work through this dire situation. I don’t see a way out of these problems, and I don’t know what to do, but my eyes are upon You.”

Nearly two thousand years later Paul faced adverse circumstances as he was put into a Roman prison. Instead of saying, “All these things are against me,” he said, “**All these things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel**” (Phil. 1:12). He knew that God had a purpose for his imprisonment.

How we need to trust God in the midst of our trials and afflictions. “Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all” (Psalm 34:19). “**It is good for me that I have been afflicted;** that I might learn Thy statutes” (Psalm 119:71).

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