



Under Pressure #3

Pressure Reveals Our Character

Call Study – Jason Park

¹¹ I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days ¹² I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on. ¹⁶ The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work. ¹⁷ Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” ¹⁸ I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” **So they began this good work. Neh. 2:11-12, 16-18**

Character: The consistent pattern of who you are, revealed by what you think, choose, and do.

BIG IDEA: Pressure doesn't create character—it reveals it. What comes out under pressure is what has been built over time.

PRESSURE REVEALS OUR INTEGRITY

¹⁵ But the earlier governors—those preceding me—placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that. ¹⁶ Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land. ¹⁷ Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table, as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations. ¹⁸ Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared for me, and every ten days an abundant supply of wine of all kinds. In spite of all this, I never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people. ¹⁹ Remember me with favor, my God, for all I have done for these people. **Neh. 5:15-19**

Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out. **Prov. 10:9**

Truth: Character is revealed by what you choose when no one is forcing you.

Q: In what area of your life is it easiest to justify taking the "easy way out" instead of the right way?

PRESSURE REVEALS OUR COURAGE

⁵ Then, the fifth time, Sanballat sent his aide to me with the same message, and in his hand was an unsealed letter ⁶ in which was written: “It is reported among the nations—and Geshem says it is true—that you and the Jews are plotting to revolt, and therefore you are building the wall. Moreover, according to these reports you are about to become their king ⁷ and have even appointed prophets to make this proclamation about you in Jerusalem: ‘There is a king in Judah!’ Now this report will get back to the king; so come, let us meet together.” ⁸ I sent him this reply: “Nothing like what you are saying is happening; you are just making it up out of your head.” ⁹ They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, “Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed.” But I prayed, “Now strengthen my hands.” **Neh. 6:5-9**

¹³ Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. ¹⁴ Do everything in love. **1 Cor. 16:13-14**

Truth: Courage isn't the absence of fear; it's obedience in the presence of fear.

Q: What fear are you currently facing that requires courage rather than certainty?

PRESSURE REVEALS OUR PERSEVERANCE

¹⁵ So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶ When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations **were afraid** and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. **Neh. 6:15–16**

³⁶ You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. **Heb. 10:36**

Truth: Character is proven by faithful endurance.

Q: How does remembering that God is at work help you persevere through difficult seasons?

CHARACTER CHOOSES FAITHFULNESS AND HAS PURPOSE

STRONG CHARACTER

vs

WEAK CHARACTER

Conviction

Convenience

Courage

Fear

Consistency

Instability

Self-control

Impulsiveness

Faithfulness

Quitting

Serves others

Protects self

Honors God

Seeks approval

³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;

⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. **Rom. 5:3-5**

TODAY'S CHALLENGE: Pressure is coming.

The question isn't if your character will be tested—it's what that pressure will reveal.

This week: Where is God calling you to choose integrity over convenience?
What distraction or fear is tempting you to "come down from the wall?"
What area of your life requires perseverance instead of quitting?

Memory Verse

"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." Rom. 5:3–4

How can we pray for you?

2026 Bible Reading Plan
OT/PS/NT

