

LISTENER GUIDE

God's Jewels

by Joni Eareckson Tada (True Woman '08)

*Then they that feared the LORD SPAKE OFTEN ONE TO ANOTHER: AND THE LORD HEARKENED, AND HEARD IT, AND **a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, AND THAT THOUGHT UPON HIS NAME. And they shall be mine**, saith the LORD OF HOSTS, IN THAT DAY WHEN I MAKE UP **my jewels**; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him (Malachi 3:16–17 KJV, emphasis added).*

So how do we become jewels that glitter and shine?

You need to be _____ like silver and _____ like gold (Zech. 13:9).

- The core of God's plan is to rescue us from our own sin.
- He did that back at the cross, but He continues to sanctify us and conform us to the image of Jesus Christ. First and foremost, that means getting rid of sin.
- God cares most about teaching us to hate our _____ and to grow up spiritually to love Him—not about making us _____.

God takes one form of evil—_____—and turns it on its head to defeat another form of evil—our _____ and _____ - _____.

- Suffering is God's chisel that chips away our pride and stubborn rebellion. The hurting and hammering will not end until we become completely like Jesus.
- When you obey in small and great ways, that's when you change.
- You begin feeling this sense of freedom from the bondage of sin and self. You become the Christian that God has destined you to be.

God's idea of good is to make you more like Jesus, which includes learning _____ through _____.

- If our Savior learned obedience through the things He suffered, should the Master expect less from us?
- "For to this you have been called because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps" (1 Pet. 2:21).

God's brightest jewels are those who seek to _____ others (Matt. 20:26–28).

- If you aspire to be a jewel in Christ's crown, then do not focus on the hammer in your own life. Look at the sandblasting that's happening in the lives of others.
- Help them; serve them; look out for their interests.

The building of the _____ is a picture of our preparation for _____.

- God told King Solomon that all the stones for the temple should be chiseled back at the quarry (the worksite) not near the temple (1 Kings 6:7).
- If you are a member of Christ's family, you are a living stone being built into a holy temple, and this world is God's worksite.
- God is using your _____ to shape you so that you might fit perfectly into heaven's landscape where there will be no more hammer or chisel, where there is no suffering—only serenity.

You are not an ordinary pebble with no _____.

- “On that day the LORD THEIR GOD WILL SAVE THEM, as the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land” (Zech. 9:16).
- “Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father” (Matt. 13:43).

Our _____ helps us put behind our self-focused selves and mature into the people God wants us to be.

- “Whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin” (1 Pet. 4:1).

Our Father is as active as ever, mining out more living stones every day. Are you one of them? Don't you want to be a living stone in the hand of the Master Jeweler?

You already experience trouble in this world. Why not make certain it has a purpose?

LISTENER GUIDE ANSWER KEY

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So how do we become jewels that glitter and shine?

You need to be refined like silver and tested like gold (Zech. 13:9).

- The core of God's plan is to rescue us from our own sin.
- He did that back at the cross, but He continues to sanctify us and conform us to the image of Jesus Christ. First and foremost, that means getting rid of sin.
- God cares most about teaching us to hate our transgression and to grow up spiritually to love Him—not about making us comfortable.

God takes one form of evil—suffering—and turns it on its head to defeat another form of evil—our sin and self-centeredness.

- Suffering is God's chisel that chips away our pride and stubborn rebellion. The hurting and hammering will not end until we become completely like Jesus.
- When you obey in small and great ways, that's when you change.
- You begin feeling this sense of freedom from the bondage of sin and self. You become the Christian that God has destined you to be.

God's idea of good is to make you more like Jesus, which includes learning obedience through suffering.

- If our Savior learned obedience through the things He suffered, should the Master expect less from us?
- “For to this you have been called because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps” (1 Pet. 2:21).

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- If you aspire to be a jewel in Christ's crown, then do not focus on the hammer in your own life. Look at the sandblasting that's happening in the lives of others.
- Help them; serve them; look out for their interests.

The building of the temple is a picture of our preparation for heaven.

- God told King Solomon that all the stones for the temple should be chiseled back at the quarry (the worksite) not near the temple (1 Kings 6:7).
- If you are a member of Christ's family, you are a living stone being built into a holy temple, and this world is God's worksite.
- God is using your afflictions to shape you so that you might fit perfectly into heaven's landscape where there will be no more hammer or chisel, where there is no suffering—only serenity.

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