

Embrace
Holy
Living

RE- FLECTING GOD

09/19/14 - Harassment Results In Suffering

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Lamentations 3:46-60

After my first year of college, I landed a summer job with an oil pipeline crew. Just imagine seven tough pipeline workers and one ministerial student. They were going to have a field day harassing the preacher boy!

So it started: they attempted to get me to lie for them. They told every dirty story they knew in our crowded truck. Fridays they went to a tavern to drink for an hour on company time. I chose not to join them and instead stayed in the truck and read the paper. Then the harassment really escalated!

I was miserable. I counted the days to the end of August. I prayed for them, about them, and against them.

Harassment brings suffering. It tests your soul. Still, God's Word says, "I called on your name, Lord . . . and you said, 'Do not fear'" (v. 55, 57). I survived the pipeline crew, and in fact, God did an amazing thing. On my last day, the crew members gathered around and asked if I would return the next summer. "No harassment," they promised. I returned to the same crew the following summer and, indeed, they never harassed me again.

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