

# It Could Be Worse

by Andrew Lemus

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1942 a young lady named Ann Frank closed the door to the world and entered into her small 450 square foot living space. With World War II raging and Germany in control of the Netherlands, many Jews went into hiding. To avoid being sent to a labor-camp, Anne Frank, her sister, and her two parents went into hiding, and were later joined by four more people. For two years these 8 souls lived in fear and concern of being caught.



Can you imagine sharing and living in a place about the size of a two car garage with 7 other people for two years? To make matters worse you have to be quiet because if the people working downstairs hear or see you, you could be arrested and sent to a labor camp. What a trial and hardship that must have been for Anne and the others in that “home”. We should be thankful and relieved that we do not have to walk in Anne Frank’s footsteps.

In light of the coronavirus, the president, governor, and CDC have asked us stay in our homes. As a result many of our schedules and habits have been turned upside down. Going to work, spending time with people, eating out, going to the movies, gathering with the church, and many other normal activities have been suspended until further notice. Since we all feel the temptation to respond to these challenges and trials with the fruits of the flesh, it would be wise of us to consider how to keep loving, bearing the fruits of the Spirit, and being a light in the midst of this trial. What can help us to avoid the temptation to walk in darkness and motivate us to love during this time? Recognizing and understanding that it could be worse. That’s right, one way to find the motivation to be content during this hard time is to recognize that it could be worse.

**It Could Be Worse** – Job lost all his children, his wealth, and his health. Beaten down, empty, and broken Job sat down in a bed of ashes striving to live faithfully in the midst of tremendous hardships (Job 1:13-19, 2:7). To make matters worse he had a rebellious wife that encouraged him to be unfaithful to God (Job 2:9-10)! Regardless of what you are facing at this time, it could be worse, you could be dealing with what Job dealt with. In light of the life and trials of Job, what we are going through is pretty easy. If he can walk faithfully in the midst of those horrific trials, surely we can in the midst of these light trials.

**It Could Be Worse** – Jesus left His throne in heaven to enter into a world filled with darkness, despair, and wickedness. He emptied Himself to walk among and serve a people that were His enemies (Ephesians 2:1-3). Sadly, these people whom Jesus came to serve and save ended up rejecting Him, calling Him names, mocking Him, spitting on Him, putting a crown of thorns on His head, driving nails through His hands and feet, stripping Him of His clothes, and putting Him on a cross for all to see. Jesus, in the midst of those circumstances never sinned. Instead He remained patient, kind, long-suffering, humble, and selfless. He endured in the midst of horrific trials. Surely, if our Lord can remain faithful in the storm of such challenging circumstances, we can remain faithful today in this light rain that we face today.

We can find contentment in recognizing it could be worse. When we observe the faithful way that others have endured hardships under tremendous trials, it can help us to endure the lighter trials we face today. So next time you are tempted to grumble, complain, get angry, and act ungodly because of the trials you’re facing, take a moment to consider the fact that it could be worse (much, much, worse).

“Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” Hebrews 12:3