

## Life Can Be Complicated

You never see it coming. You don't expect it. You cannot prepare for it because you have not experienced it before. It's that one thing that never in a million years would you even think that it could happen to you. But it does. You are not immune to it. Sure, you've seen others go through it, but you still don't expect it to happen to you. But it does. Life has thrown you a curve ball. You swing the bat. You miss. Now you just stand there wondering why in the world did you take that swing. The pitch was fast and low. You saw the subtle shift in the direction, but you swung anyway. That's how life works. The unexpected at the most inopportune time.

Life can be complicated. You want to stand up and do the right thing, but if you do you throw someone else under the bus. Your friend. Your best friend. The one person who has been there for the good, the bad, and the ugly. Now you have to make a choice. You either take the hit, realizing that your life will forever be changed, or you do what you know is required of you, but you do it at the expense of your friend. And not to mention that your children are present. The ones you spanked for telling a lie, regardless of the infraction. The ones you have told time and time again to always tell the truth, no matter what. And they are keenly aware of the dilemma you're facing. They also know you have instilled in them to be faithful and loyal to a friend who has truly proven to be a true friend. Life can be complicated.

You know when you don't know what to do, you pray. When you do know what to do, you pray. You know you need to steal away and pray. You excuse yourself to the restroom, but not just any restroom. That one that people tend to forget exists, so it is rarely occupied. You go there, lock the door, and start praying. You need guidance and

wisdom RIGHT NOW! So why does God appear to not be talking to you at this moment. What?! God, You're going silent now. Really?! Then you hear your name being called, so you know that you must go face the music. But to which tune will you dance, friend or self? Life can be complicated.

Your friend speaks up. She decides to come clean and take her punishment. However, your friend is commended for being willing to take the heat to spare you. "You should be honored to have a friend like this!" you are told several times. You are standing there dumbfounded. The guilty is being honored while the innocent is being berated! If you try to tell what REALLY happened now, you'll look like a person you does not take responsibility for her own actions. Now what? Life can be complicated. You stand there unable to process what is happening as you hear that your job is in jeopardy, and a decision will be made within the next 48 hours. WHAT????!!!!

You walk away, still trying to process what has happened. Suddenly your friend is there, trying to explain what has happened. She was pretty sure if she told the story just right, no one would believe that she was really guilty. The plan worked, except for one minor detail ---- your job is in jeopardy! Your friend did not think that it would come to that. Perhaps it was because of how many times she mentioned your name, hinting that maybe you did screw up. But you didn't and both of you know that. Your friend tries to assure you, but that doesn't work. Now, your children show up. Life can be complicated.

Your friend walks away as your children grow closer. They cannot believe that you were even talking to her. You try to explain, but it comes off like you are trying to defend her and her actions, All your children want to do is "get a piece of her"! You are

grateful that they are respectful enough to not call her out but they cannot fathom why you are not as livid as they are. Life can be complicated.

You decide to go back and have a conversation in hopes of keeping your job. Even though you do not see, hear, or feel His presence, you are trusting that God is right there. He is. It seems that everyone forgot about the video camera. You decide you may have just found a new best friend in the colleague who brought the footage to light. It is obvious that you were not the guilty party. Instead of throwing your friend under the bus, you share a rationale as to why she did what she did. This time you are seeing the dumbfounded look you had on your face a few minutes ago. No one can believe that you are standing up for her. But you do, and it softens the blow for your friend. You are told that you are a “beyond the call of duty” friend. You could have made life totally miserable for your friend, but you didn’t. You never even gave an indication that you would.

Life can be complicated. You never know the depth of your strength or your walk with God until you are put to the test! With all the complications life has to offer, stay true to your faith. Life can be complicated, but you can endure its winds and turns and detours, if you just remain steadfast. Don’t allow complications to power over you. Take a moment. Take a deep breath. Pray. Trust God. Life can be complicated, but your response to it need not be.