The greatest story ever told is not of those who have no trials but of those who triumph in then, over them or in spite of them.

Such is the story of Peter, who denied Christ, yet it is never mentioned in history, because he was triumphant in spite of it.

Such is the story of King David, who killed his leading general so he could have his wife. Deliberate, premeditated, evil – from the man who is described as a man after God’s own heart.

Such is the story of Edison, who did not discover the electric light until he found over 1,000 ways it would not work.

Such is the story of many, who face with the damning effects of the fall are victims of life, of people, and often of their own failure.

Such is the story of our Lord and Savior, who was beaten, reviled, mocked with a crown of thorns and then nailed to the cross.

The Jewish leaders found justification in their actions. The Romans passed it off as the end of another fanatic. The disciples were nowhere to be found. The demons of hell threw a party. They had put an end to the greatest threat to their kingdom and ended the like of this God-man. In the end, they knew, history would record their victory and affirm their greatness.

They reveled in the Death of Christ as victory over Him, but that was on Friday. What they did not know, what no one knew, was that this was not Friday the Final Day, but it was only a prelude to Sunday and the Resurrection. It is not finished in the shadows and gloom of Friday. It is only finished on the morning glow of Sunday.

Leland and Jane Stanford had one son, Leland, Jr. who died at the age of 15 and was never allowed to fulfill their dream of having him attend college. So in his honor they build Stanford University so other children would have the advantages their son never would.

Adversity is not the epitaph – is can be but a starting point for the greater victory that would not have been ours without the darkness of the night that brought us to our finest day. We learn early in life how to fight with the night, but then, the night time experiences of life continue, eating away at our soul. Sometimes it is time to deal with the night as did our Lord – silently, embracing not the darkness, but the inevitable path to victory it foreshadows.

When all is lost, be careful that you do not get lost also. It is not the end. It never is. God has a plan and it will yield to no darkness, no interference and no depression. The plans and purposes of God for you are good and they are securely waiting for the time of their revelation…

Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.