

Drew Brees: Loyola Commencement Address, 2010

2:31min.

...As I look out at the ... graduates of Loyola University class of 2010, I'm so excited for you all. What you're about to experience will be eye opening, certainly rewarding, and challenging at times. They say experience is what you gain when you don't get what you want. I can promise you that over the next few years you will gain experience. You will not always get what you want.

...In fact I can guarantee that you will face adversity along the way and for most of you it'll be the toughest thing you've ever had to face in your life. I will also tell you that every successful person you meet or talk to will say that it was because of that adversity that they were given the opportunity to reach new heights that they never thought possible.

For me it was my shoulder injury back in 2005, December 31, 2005. I was playing for the *San Diego Chargers*. I dislocated my right shoulder going into an off season in which I did not have a contract, did not have a job. When you have that kind of injury at the quarter back position there's not a lot of people that come calling or knocking.

So at the time I thought this is probably the worst thing that could have ever happened to me but now I look back at it four years later and I say it was probably one of the best things that ever happened to me because it brought me to New Orleans. ...

So once again the lesson being that adversity is an opportunity. Adversity will make you stronger. Adversity will mold you into the person that you are meant to be. ...The lesson is, it's not a matter of if you will face adversity in your life but when. So when adversity knocks on your door seize it as an opportunity. For that adversity is being put in your life for a reason. It is God's way of providing you with the strength and the tools to face future challenges and to mold you into the person that he meant for you to be. In the end it is this adversity that will allow you to accomplish things in life that you originally thought were reserved only for your dreams.

Now for the words you've been waiting for, in closing I'd like to leave you with a quote. I could have chosen many profound quotes from presidents, C.E.O.'s, or philosophers but I'm choosing one from my grandfather. He is 85 years old; he still lives on a ranch, herding cows in East Texas.

A quote I heard all the time from him when I was growing up was this, according to my grandpa, "There are three types of people in this world. There are those that make it happen. There are those who watch it happen and then there are those that wake up one day and say 'What the heck happened?' So which one are you?" is what he would tell me.

...Now Congratulations, and let's go make it happen!