Joy in Adversity

Ken Chapman · Philippians 1:12–20

INTRODUCTION

- The Bible over and over again, old and new testament, tells us as God's redeemed people that we're to be happy.
- Maybe we should have titled it Making Joy in Our Lives, because it does have to be a choice.
- And so Paul, highly qualified to speak on this subject, is going to talk to us about finding joy in adversity.

1 Obstacle or Opportunity?

Philippians 1:12–13; Acts 16

- We must see our obstacles in life as also maybe opportunities. Is it an obstacle or is it an opportunity?
- I want you to know, brethren, that the things that happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel.
- So that it's become evident to the whole palace guard and to all the rest that my chains are in Christ.
- Not only was Paul in some prison cell, but at least a portion, a time of his imprisonment, he would have actually literally been chained to a prison guard.
- Paul shows us that an obstacle can actually be seen as an opportunity.
- How is this maybe making me better? How is this opening doors of opportunities for me to serve and to help others?

2 Suffering Can Turn Into Service

Philippians 1:14–18; Acts 8

- Most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.
- Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached. And in this I rejoice, and yes, we'll rejoice.
- Most of the brethren, he says, have, and isn't it ironic the way it works this way, have been strengthened and emboldened by my chains.
- And it's really not about me. It's about the gospel being preached. Our suffering can turn into service to others.
- There's nobody can help you through dark times as much as somebody who's been through dark times.

3 Is It Going to Be Doubt or Trust?

Philippians 1:19–20; Romans 8:28

- Paul didn't sit there in those long, dark, what could have been very depressing moments in that prison cell and began to doubt God.

- I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.
- Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.
- There's more than one way to be delivered. Paul was delivered in the greatest way from that prison cell.
- All things work together for good to those who love the Lord. Paul believed that. Paul lived that.
- I trust the next chapter. I trust the next chapter because I know the author.

THE CHALLENGE

Would you find that joy this morning? It comes in, ironically, in emptying ourselves and being filled with the love, the hope, and the joy of Jesus Christ.

MY NOTES