

The Other Side of Suffering

Philippians 1:12-20

Reframing what has happened: Turning problems into platforms.

📖 Philippians 1:12 (NIV84) “Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.”

📖 Philippians 1:13 (NIV84) “As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.”

Personal Platforms

- Our **pain** can be a platform.
- Our **profession** can be a platform.
- Our **people** can be a platform.
- Our **pleasure** can be a platform.

📖 Philippians 1:12–13 (MSG) “I want to report to you, friends, that my imprisonment here has had the opposite of its intended effect. Instead of being squelched, the Message has actually prospered. ¹³ All the soldiers here, and everyone else, too, found out that I’m in jail because of this Messiah. That piqued their curiosity, and now they’ve learned all about Him.”

Reviewing what has happened: Seeing how God is using me.

📖 Philippians 1:14 (NIV84) “Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.”

📖 Hebrews 5:8 (NLT) “Even though Jesus was God’s Son, He learned obedience from the things He suffered.”

📖 Romans 8:28 (NIV84) “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”

Redeeming what has happened: Rejoicing that Christ is preached.

📖 Philippians 1:15–18a (NIV84) “It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶ The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. ¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.”

📖 1 Peter 2:23 (NLT) “He did not retaliate when He was insulted, nor threaten revenge when He suffered. He left His case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.”

📖 Colossians 3:1–2 (NIV84) “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

📖 Philippians 1:18b-20 (NIV) “Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.”

Digging Deeper: What is happening in your life right now? Reframe it through a Biblical lens.

Matthew 11:12 says, “From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.” What if you saw suffering as a chance for the Kingdom to advance rather than a reason to retaliate?

