



Week 2

what has happened to me

The Opening Questions

Have you ever been through something so difficult that it caused you to either doubt God or even be angry at God? If you are comfortable, please share about that experience. How did you make it through that?

Watch the Video Clip

Key Teaching Points

Thankful hearts see differently.

A thankful heart trusts God so much that no matter what happens, it's all good.

If we are to eradicate lostness in NKY, we have to be a people that clings to God no matter what happens to us.

NEXT STEP...

- Admit what has happened to you.
- If you haven't already, turn to God.
- If you've got God, don't stop believing that God's got you.
- Ask God to help you see "what has happened to you" through His eyes.

Philippians 1:12-26 (NIV)

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me

while I am in chains. 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.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. 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. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Discussion Questions

What was your biggest takeaway from today's teaching?

Have you ever had your faith inspired by seeing someone else cling to God through difficult circumstances? Describe what you experienced.

What difficult thing is happening to you right now in your life? Do you feel like you can maintain a thankful heart right now in the midst of this?

How was Paul able to have such a good attitude while enduring prison and facing a death sentence? What did he do, think, or believe that we can apply in our lives today so that we too can have that kind of an attitude?

How many of you would say that it's a new concept to think of a difficult circumstance as a gospel advancement opportunity?

Is there someone watching your life right now that you think could finally experience Jesus as they see how you live? If you feel comfortable sharing their name, let's pray for that person.

Pray

As you close in prayer together, pray specifically for the difficult circumstances that were shared. Don't pray for God to remove them but to use them for His glory and for the advancement of the gospel. And pray for the people that were names who are watching our lives and need Jesus. And finally, ask God to help us all see our circumstances through His eyes and to increase our faith. Take time to thank God for not letting go and being faithful no matter what has happened to us.