

“Letting Go to Lay Hold” | Tim Frickenschmidt | February 13, 2022

**Jeremiah 2:9-13** “Therefore I still contend with you, declares the LORD, and with your children’s children I will contend. For cross to the coasts of Cyprus and see, or send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

**Philippians 3:19-4:9** “Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. 4:1 Therefore, my brothers,<sup>[a]</sup> whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. 2 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. 3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion,<sup>[b]</sup> help these women, who have labored<sup>[c]</sup> side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness<sup>[d]</sup> be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned<sup>[e]</sup> and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

**Matthew 13:3-9** And he told them many

**Introduction**

The letter to Philippians was written to be read to the congregation. Paul compares a Roman living in Philippi to a Christian living on earth because of the history of Philippi. Many of the citizens were transplants from Rome after battle.

**Background**

- 1) **What We Must Release** - What are the earthly things we need to release? Paul talks about things of empty glory that will not last. He contrasts earthly things with heavenly citizenship.
- 2) **What We Must Replace** - Paul writes this passage about conflict. In conflict, agree about Jesus (v. 2 “entreat Euodia and Syntyche to agree in the Lord”). Agree that Jesus loves you both and lose your sense of rightness to save the relationship. Don’t demand your rights; empty out your lives.

**Discuss**

- 1) Where does your ultimate allegiance lie? What are the earthly things we need to release?
- 2) What must happen for the gospel to sink in deeply and change us?
- 3) What word are you acting out now? Why not make it Jesus?

**Conclusion/Application**

In conflict, there are 3 steps to consider. 1) Pray - sometimes conflicts come up so we first pray. 2) Think - dwell on what’s lovely (Philippians 4:8-9) Intentionally make new habits of mind. 3) Let go and agree about Jesus. Paul says if you agree about Jesus, the God of peace will go with you.

things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.”