

CHOOSE JOY, EVEN WHEN: WEEK 1

Luke 12:16-19 And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. 17 He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crop.’ 18 “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ 21 “This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”

Philippians 1:12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. Instead of asking why, Paul teaches us to ask what.

1. Paul teaches us to ask is now what.

Philippians 1:13-14 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14 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.

God is the one who gives us the wisdom and the courage to turn what we call obstacles into opportunities.

2. Paul teaches us to say so what?

Philippians 1:15-18 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. 16 The latter do so out of 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.

Philippian 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.