

## **House Arrest: Making the Best of a Bad Situation**

### **An Opportunity for Joy**

Philippians 2:12-18

*“The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature & God.”* **A Frank**

*“No one has ever become poor by giving.”* **Anne Frank**

*“Sadness comes from feeling sorry for yourself & happiness from joy.”* **A Frank**

#### **Main Idea: House Arrest provides a Great Opportunity for Joy**

*“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear & trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will & to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless & innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked & twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad & rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad & rejoice with me.”* **Philippians 2:12-18**

#### **I. God has Put Joy Inside of You – vs. 12-13**

*“For it is God who works in you, both to will & to work for his good pleasure.”* **Philippians 2:13**

*“He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.”* **1 Thessalonians 5:24**

*“You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain & wine abound.”* **Psalms 4:7**

*“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”* **Psalms 16:11**

#### **II. God has Put Joy All Around You – vs. 16-18**

*“Think of all the beauty still left around you & be happy.”* **Anne Frank**

*“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.”* **James 1:2-3**

#### **III. God will Use Joy to Bless Those Who Know You – vs. 14-15**

*“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”* **Ephesians 4:29**

**Grief vs. Grumbling:** Are we to ignore the bad (i.e. overrun hospitals, people dying, economy crashing & businesses folding)? No, rejoicing doesn't mean that we are blind to the bad. It means that we know where to GO with the bad. The difference between grieving and grumbling is that grieving is directed at God & grumbling is directed at others. We can & should express grief to God because he loves & comforts us, but we express joy to others!

**Jesus is the hero of this concept. He was faced with an opportunity for joy in the midst of misery...**

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, & sin which clings so closely, & let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder & perfecter of our faith, **who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, & is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**”* **Hebrews 12:1-2**

In the most horrific moment in human history, where the perfect Son of God was crucified, Jesus focused on the joy set before him! And what was his joy? Glorifying God by redeeming the world to himself!

*“His joy is in our redemption, which rebounds to God's glory. We share the joy with Jesus & God gets the glory.”* **John Piper**

**If you have not yet trusted in Jesus death on the cross to forgive your sins, let me encourage you to a time of prayer and repentance. Only then can you can experience the greatest joy that God offers; the joy of being saved!**

#### **Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:**

- *1001 Humorous Illustrations* – Michael Hodgin (1994)
- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Letter to the Philippians* – William Barclay (1975)
- *Holman Commentary: Galatians-Colossians* – Max Anders (1999)
- *Philippians* – Kent Hughes (1996)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – W.A. Elwell & P.W. Comfort (2001)
- *Philippians, Colossians & Philemon* – R.R. Melick (1991)
- *A Man of Grace & Grit: Paul* – Charles Swindoll (2002)
- *A Diary of a Young Girl* – Anne Frank (1952)
- *The Hiding Place* – Corrie ten Boom (1971)
- *Jesus's Pursuit of Joy* – John Piper (2012)

