

Surprised by Joy: Ordinary People Making an Extraordinary Difference Philippians 2:19-30

Message Outline

Lean into life as a team sport.

Make compassion your primary motivation.

Be anchored by faith in Jesus.

Looking Back

Philippians chapter 2 develops around the theme of Paul's encouragement in verse 5 to "let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus (KJV)" or "You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had (NLT)." After explaining Jesus' attitude and how his attitude translated into action (v. 6-11) and providing specific instructions (v.12-18), Paul presents two examples of people who lived with the attitude of Jesus. These two people lived ordinary lives but made an extraordinary difference. They were examples for believers in the first century just as they are for us today. Let's learn from Timothy and Epaphroditus...

Thinking It Through

disagree|agree, consider|contemplate

Every disciple needs three types of relationships in his life. He needs a 'Paul' who can mentor him and challenge him. He needs a 'Barnabas' who can come along side and encourage him. And he needs a 'Timothy,' someone he can pour his life into. ~ Howard Hendricks

Jesus...moved with compassion... Matthew 14:14, Mark 1:41, 6:34

Do for one what you wish you could do for all. Andy Stanley

To be gritty is to keep putting one foot in front of the other. To be gritty is to hold fast to an interesting and purposeful goal. To be gritty is to invest, day after week after year, in challenging practice. To be gritty is to fall down seven times, and rise eight. ~ Angela Duckworth

Working it Out

1. Who are 2 or 3 people who have made a positive difference in your life? Write down their names, make a note, or begin a conversation about the qualities you appreciate in those people.
 2. Read Philippians 2:19-30. If you can make time, review and read all of chapter 2, paying attention to how the entire chapter develops the encouragement or instruction from verse 5.
 3. What qualities do you notice that made Timothy unique in verses 19-24?
 4. What qualities do you notice that made Epaphroditus unique in verses 25-30?
 5. What do you notice about Paul's leadership, ministry style, or character from this passage?
 6. Identify 1 or 2 qualities from this Bible study or from the sermon you want to incorporate into your character. Why is this area of growth important?
 - a. Ask God to allow growth in this area.
 - b. Consider an action step to help you develop this trait.
 7. How could you express gratitude regarding those people you identified in question 1...perhaps a note or email, a conversation, or through prayer?
-