

Relentless

Day 8



Today's Passage

After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

Acts 16:23-25 NIV

Today's Thought

Already in our journey we have examined the importance of "Relentless Living" due to the fact that life is hard, and also taking in account we tend to find ourselves in dire circumstances of our own making. Today though, our subject is a little harder to swallow. How about the times when God chooses to place us in hardship as part of his plan.

Does it alarm you to think that even when life is falling apart around you, you may be in the very center of the will of God? This was Paul's experience from today's scripture. Paul was doing God's work; He heals a demon possessed slave girl and his world comes crashing in on him. He is quickly tried unfairly, he is punished unjustly, and placed in the inner cell with his feet and hands chained. He loses blood, he loses consciousness, yet he never loses his purpose.

Notice Paul's reaction to the circumstance; he sings. Why does he sing? Paul lives the relentless life. After a quick inventory concerning why he wound up in prison Paul knows it must be God's plan. So he sings.

Paul knew Psalms 5:11 by heart; *"But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you."* If we are in the center of God's will, we are also in the center of his care. This is a hard to comprehend when you are in the inner cell. Paul knew that even in the most dire circumstances God's protection was being spread over him.

Are you usable like this? Are you relentless in your job situation putting up with all that you are currently encountering so that God can use you to touch somebody for Christ? Are you relentless in your relationships, staying true to God even when others are walking away? Or do you run? Paul recognized God's plan, committed himself to relentlessness, then he rejoiced...guess what? God brought the results. *(that would make a dandy sermon!)* Preach that today with your life!

Today's Prayer

Lord, open my eyes to what you are doing around me. There is nothing I wouldn't do for you, and no where I wouldn't go for you. Even if staying put in the storm is your choice for me today, help me to recognize how I might be used by you even in this place.