



Seeing a Greater Purpose in Adversity

By Shannon Ford January 23, 2024

TODAY'S READING: Acts 16

Paul and Silas had just been thrown into prison. An earthquake erupted and the jail cell was opened. It is Paul and Silas' opportunity. "Deliverance! Praise God!" might be the appropriate response. But this is not what Paul and Silas do. In fact, rather than leave, they sit quietly in their prison cell. The guard, in fear for his life, knew it would be automatic death if prisoners escaped. Paul and Silas did not leave because they saw a higher purpose for which they were in prison.

They were not looking at their circumstances; they were much more concerned about the unsaved guard. The story goes on to explain how Paul and Silas went home with the guard and his family. Not only did the guard get saved, but his entire household as well. What a lesson this is for us. How often are we so busy looking for deliverance from our circumstance that we miss God completely. God is looking to do miracles in our circumstances if we will only look for them. Sometimes as believers we become so obsessed with our goals and plans that we miss where God is working, which may be where the miracle lies. What if that bitter co-worker who snaps at you is unsaved and he is there for you to share the gospel with him? Our adverse situations can often be the door of spiritual opportunity for those who need Christ.

I saw this personally when God allowed my wife and I to go through several infertility adversities. It took some time, but I saw two great miracles of two adopted sons because of those adversities. When God said that "all things work together for good for those who are called according to His purposes" (see Romans 8:28), He meant all things. It is up to us to find the "work together for good" part by being faithful. The next time you face

adversity, tune your spiritual antennae, and ask God for discernment to see the real purpose for your adversity.

PRAYER: Lord, we know that You send adversity to our lives to grow us spiritually. Lord, help us see adversity as part of Your sanctifying process to conform us to be more like Christ. I pray that one day I will welcome adversities and trials in my life instead of complaining and praying for removal and relief. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Acts 17

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