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PRISON MINISTRY

I have several friends that have been in what we would call a “prison ministry.” They have led hundreds of people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. When they finished ministering, they were able to “leave” the locked setting and return home.

Have you ever noticed how many old and new testament “heroes of the faith” had prison ministries also? Joseph was in prison and was used mightily by God to interpret dreams. He was released from this “ministry” to become second in command to Pharaoh. Then, there was John the Baptist. He had a prison ministry that cost him his head. He stood for truth and it cost him. Then there was Paul and Silas. They were in stocks in prison having been beaten, but they ministered with praise songs and an earthquake hit. Could it have been the “high notes” they sang that did it? I doubt it. They were steadfast and unmovable in their faith even in prison.

Most of the letters that the Apostle Paul wrote were from prison. The Apostle John was in prison on the Island of Patmos when he was given the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

None of these were moved by their circumstances. Over the centuries there have been many martyrs put in prison that have died for their faith. They stood strong and would not relent. I believe that the days are coming when many Christians will once again be imprisoned right here in the U.S. We have a choice if this happens. We can whine or we can win. How do we win? We declare the good news of Jesus Christ in whatever circumstance we are in.

When Corrie TenBoom and her sister were imprisoned for hiding Jews in their home, the first prisoner’s room they were put into had lice everywhere. It was an uncomfortable place to be in. Corrie was upset, but her sister told her that it was an opportunity for them to share the gospel because the guards avoided that place. Many lives were changed because of the lice.

We too, can take our circumstances that do not look so good and turn them into opportunities for Jesus. We may not have a “prison ministry”, but there are many bound up in the prison of sin that need to be set free. We are commanded to go and share the gospel. Sadly, many have never done that. When the early church did not leave the comforts of Jerusalem, persecution came and they had to leave, and in doing this the gospel spread.

Will it take persecution in America to bring her back to her first love? Perhaps. Are you ready for those days? I suggest you get ready for they may come sooner than you think.