

PRISON LETTERS

PHILIPPIANS



PRISON LETTERS

Fill in the blank:

"I am most like Jesus when _____."



PRISON LETTERS

“I am most Jesus like when I do not excuse my calling because of my circumstance.”



¹² Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

¹⁴ And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. ¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

¹⁶ The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. ¹⁸ But what does it matter?

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain,
and I will continue with all of you for your
progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through
my being with you again your boasting in Christ
Jesus will abound on account of me.

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

²³ After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴ When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

ACTS 16:23-24

²³ He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs

ACTS 24:23

“It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.”

ACTS 28:20

1) GOSPEL ADVANCEMENT



¹² Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-14

¹⁴ And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-14

The Apostle Paul did not just survive, he thrived under house arrest

A change in circumstance always means
new opportunities to be seized

Nothing happens by mistake or by accident; everything is providential

What we consider a setback is really
a setup

When God moves you out, He always moves someone else in. Choose to not see this as a demotion, but as a promotion.

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. **But God's word is not chained.**

2 TIMOTHY 2:8-10

¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

2 TIMOTHY 2:8-10

Who's your one? Is their salvation worth
the discomfort that you are in?

2) GOSPEL AMBITION



¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶ The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely,

PHILIPPIANS 1:15-18

supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. ¹⁸ But what does it matter?

The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

You need to focus on what God has called you to do. The gospel must be preached no matter what.

²⁰ It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

ROMANS 15:20

3) GOSPEL ASSURANCE



Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

PHILIPPIANS 1:18-26

²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

PHILIPPIANS 1:18-26

²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

PHILIPPIANS 1:18-26

²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain,
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my being with you again your boasting in Christ
Jesus will abound on account of me.

PHILIPPIANS 1:18-26

A) ASSURANCE OF DELIVERANCE



⁴ Rejoice in the Lord *always*. I will say it again:
Rejoice!

PHILIPPIANS 4:4

⁸ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself.

⁹ Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death.

2 CORINTHIANS 1:8-11

But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

¹⁰ He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,
¹¹ as you help us by your prayers.

2 CORINTHIANS 1:8-11

B) ASSURANCE OF DELIVERANCE



But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.

2 TIMOTHY 1:12

“Anyone who believes in him will never be
put to shame.”

ROMANS 10:11

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.

ROMANS 1:16

C) ASSURANCE TO LIVE



Our world believes that to live is gain
and to die is loss, but for Paul, to live
is Christ and to die is gain

There is no early retirement from
your calling

What you have done and how you have
done may not be what God wants you
to do now and how God wants you to
do it now

PRISON LETTERS

Remember, you are most like Jesus
when you do not excuse your calling
because of your circumstance



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