

## **Weekender**

### **Don't Settle Prayer Night**

Warren Zevon- musician in the 60s-70s-80s turned out to be a good friend of David Letterman and made several appearances on the Late Show.

He got cancer- and knew he was going to die soon. So he did one last appearance on Letterman.

"First of all, let me say that I made a tactical error in not going to a physician for 20 years. It was one of those phobias that didn't really pay off"

He talked about how his terminal prognosis changed him.

"You put more value in every minute. You're reminded to enjoy every sandwich."

Back in the dressing room- after the show, Letterman said it was just small talk while he was putting his guitar in its case. He put it in, closed the lid, snapped it, handed it to me and said 'Take good care of this for me' And I burst into tears. Uncontrollable. And I hugged him and said "I just love your music" and that was it.

Look what Letterman said about preparing for that last show with his friend.

**"We all knew he was dying. I was at a loss because I couldn't think of an entry point for a conversation with a dying man on a television show that's supposed be silly. 'How you doing? You look great!' doesn't exactly work. I was really dissatisfied with my part of that conversation. I was ill-equipped to connect with a friend who was going through something like that."- David Letterman**

I remember when my wife was wheeled out of the room for the first child by birth.

It was a rushed and dangerous situation. And I stood alone for 90 seconds.

Instead of distracting myself....I went deeper into the moment.

What if she dies? What if our son dies? What if both of them do?

At that point "enjoying every sandwich" really wasn't a comfort.

I needed something deeper. In that moment- and truthfully in every moment- I want something that goes beyond enjoying music and sandwiches.

Joh Hus in July 6, 1415

**"O most holy Christ- Give me a fearless heart, a right faith, a firm hope, a perfect love, that for Your sake I may lay down my life with patience and joy. Amen."- John Hus**

**"I have never thought nor preached except with the one intent of winning men, if possible, from their sins. in the truth of the gospel I have written, taught, and preached; today I will gladly die."- John Hus,**

**"Here is the world.  
Beautiful and terrible things will happen.  
Don't be afraid."  
- Fredreick Buechner**

**Purpose:**

**Multiply Gospel Change.  
For Broken People.  
On Purpose.**

**Identity:**

**Raising up leaders with joy.**

**Unafraid.  
Overflowing.  
Sent.**

Raising up (investment- expectation to mature- direction)  
Verse- present them mature in Christ- Timothy  
everyone in the image of God is an asset for this family and the world. TEEMING  
with purpose

Humble Leaders- I really wish this adjective wasn't necessary.  
This is a Pillar. In the path of Christ- Gospel creates HUMBLE & LEADERSHIP  
Spiritual Poverty & Wealth  
Grace in- Grit out

with Joy-  
People are glad to see you...and you are glad to see people.  
Relationship, playfulness, overcoming circumstance  
Transcending happiness  
Not cheap...Forward looking

**Title Slide- “Enjoy More Than Sandwiches: How to Fearlessly Face Death...and Literally Everything Else”- Philippians 1:12-26**

**Philippians 1:12-26**

12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually advanced the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard, and to everyone else, that my imprisonment is because I am in Christ. 14 Most of the brothers have gained confidence in the Lord from my imprisonment and dare even more to speak the word fearlessly. 15 To be sure, some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of good will. 16 These preach out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; 17 the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, thinking that they will cause me trouble in my imprisonment. 18 What does it matter? Only that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice 19 because I know this will lead to my salvation through your prayers and help from the Spirit of Jesus Christ. 20 My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all courage, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

21 For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 Now if I live on in the flesh, this means fruitful work for me; and I don't know which one I should choose. 23 I am torn between the two. I long to depart and be with Christ — which is far better — 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. 25 Since I am persuaded of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that, because of my coming to you again, your boasting in Christ Jesus may abound.

**1) To be unafraid, suffering needs meaning.**

Going through it or Growing through it?

When we talk about Raising up leaders with Joy- PAUL IS ONE.  
And that's the way he is raising up other leaders- with joy

“JOY”- Knowing that someone is happy to see you

Paul has the identity of someone who is raising up leaders with joy. UNAFRAID.

He would go into any environment. Publicly debate when the whole crowd was against him.

Acts 19- Ephesus-

Whole crowd in a stadium chanting "GREAT IS ARTEMIS OF THE EPHESIANS!"

Paul's like- "Hey- let me go out there and talk to them about Jesus one more time!"

King Agrippa before that- "Paul- are you trying to make me a Xian- Paul's like- You and everybody else King.

## **v 12**

The Philippians love Paul- and word gets to him in prison that the Philippians are

writing to the Philippian church from jail

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They are discouraged.

He's not going to be able to do his work.

But look what Paul says- "Actually- my imprisonment is going to advance the gospel. People are going to hear more about Jesus life death and resurrection. The message is going to spread!

## **v 13-14**

The guards would change out.

2-3 times a day- i literally have a captive audience!

One by one- I'm telling these guys about Jesus- they keep me in here long enough- the entire Imperial Guard is gonna be following Jesus.

Not only that- as word is getting out to the churches- people are inspired to preach the gospel FEARLESSLY-

(When you think about the persecuted church- go on a church plant visit to one of our partners- especially in S Asia- you realize- hang on- I'm free to do this anytime anywhere with anyone

## **v 18**

Whether false motives or true- is Christ proclaimed.

The people gunning for me- I don't see them as rivals.

Instead- YES- God is using people that hate me to do something I love.

YES I WILL CONTINUE TO REJOICE!

**v19**

I KNOW- this will lead to my salvation- through your prayers and help of the Holy Spirit.

This is not salvation from sin in the past tense- like from the condemnation of sin. Likewise- he's not saying "I know I'm going to get out of here unscathed. After all he considers death is a real possibility"

He's using it in the present tense. In other words- salvation from the ongoing effects of sin- its power and presence in my life.

He sees this situation- as difficult as it is- as an opportunity for refinement

**Back to 1)**

HOW- suffering has meaning. It's not pointless. There is no evil, no pain, that God can't redeem and turn to Good.

DISCLAIMER- You can't always see it...and sometimes it does damage to pick apart your pain.

(Chai- lots of beauty happened through his death- including his own salvation and eventual resurrection- YET- that doesn't mean I'm glad it happened)- not what Paul is saying either.

You shouldn't ignore grief or lament. Sit in the moment. You need to feel the gravity of death if you can ever appreciate the way God turns it to life.

At the same time, to hate God for suffering and live a life of bitterness and anger- you will miss SO MUCH!

Gen 50

**Genesis 50:19-21**

**19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result — the survival of many people. 21 Therefore don't be afraid. I will take care of you and your children." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.**

**Romans 8:28 & 31-32**

**28 We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.**

**31 What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything?**

Transition: But this doesn't just happen automatically. Its not like you say- I want to follow Jesus and than BAM! That perspective is built.

## **2) To be unafraid, life needs transcendence.**

You have to build your life on something higher than you that will last.

### **v 21**

What does it mean "to live is Christ"

For Paul- it means his whole life- all of it- every second is given- dedicated to knowing Jesus and making Jesus known to the world.

Everything he does- he is reframing in the narrative of his life belonging to Jesus.

### **1 Cor 10:31**

**31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.**

This is a transcendent purpose. Jesus Christ- eternal. Every second of your life spent for the name of Jesus is an eternal investment. it lives on way beyond your death.

If you live for anything else- it will ultimately be taken away from you.

### **Back to 2)**

Epicurean way- Live life now. Eat drink and be merry. For tomorrow we die.  
Stoic way- be tough. in control..until you die. Always be tough. Don't let them see you sweat.

But in the face of death- what is that worth?

Angels with Dirty Faces

Jim Cagney Rocky- BF Priest  
the Dead End Boys

"You have to die yellow. Scream. If you don't..you'll never save the boys"

They had to see him weak. Out of control- in order to break the lie that you should just go into death and accept it.

You have to get rid of your bottom line. Something higher to live for. The lives of those boys.

He was shamed so the boys would be saved.

“For me, to live is morality”

Why does Javert kill himself in Les Mis?

He can't stand that a criminal like Valjean is better.

He can't stand the idea that he sees forgiveness. That he needs grace.

Either change your bottom line...or you die.

If you don't change what makes life worth living- you will die with regret.

Jimmy Cagney changes... Javert will not accept grace.

Most of us have chosen something else we're living for. Is it transcendent. What will eventually be burned up in a solar flare.

Family, career, marriage, sex, relationships, money fame, being the best. To me to live is to have that.

But to LIVE IS CHRIST-

All things are created through and for him.

If life collapses when you lose what you love- it means what you love was your life.

Change your definition- and it will come

**Phil 1:20**

**My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all courage, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death.**

Romans 8:38-39

**For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Train to be joyfully unafraid.**

- 1) **Develop your inner life with Christ.**
- 2) **Follow the Spirit into meaningful risk.**

Jesus knew the Scripture- similar temptations in the wilderness (Spirit led him there)

Transition: Finally...

### **3) To be unafraid, death needs an expiration date.**

Why doesn't death scare Paul? Why isn't he panicking that he is losing everything?  
Why doesn't he curse God for not letting him live a long life?

Why is he almost giddy about the possibility of dying?

#### **Philippians 3:20-21**

**Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. 21 He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself.**

GOSPEL.

Why did Jesus do it? Because of Joy. He's glad to see you. And knows you'll be glad to see him.

He is literally raising up LEADERS WITH JOY.

And how is he sure of this?

#### **Phil 3:7-9**

**7 But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ — the righteousness from God based on faith.**

#### **Back to 3)**

Blessing for my sons.



Jesus is before behind you and beside you.  
Sin doesn't own you.  
Death can't stop you.

**What is your only comfort in life and in death?**

That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

**He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,<sup>4</sup> and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven;<sup>7</sup> in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

George Herbert in his poem Time- talks to Death personified.  
First he tells death he needs to sharpen his scythe.

Death is taken aback. What? I don't find men like you very often. Usually people tell me my scythe is too sharp...their afraid of it.

Then he says- "Well I don't see it as a weapon. Its more like a pruning life. You cut me down- I grow up better."

Then he tells death- You know what- Christ has done you a favor-

**And in his blessing thou art blest:  
For where thou only wert before  
An executioner at best;  
Thou art a gard'ner now, and more,  
An usher to convey our souls  
Beyond the utmost starres and poles.**

Thats transcendence. Courage Fearlessness.  
Only in Christ can we mourn death...and then mock it.