

Loser – Losing to Win
Weekend Discussion Questions
August 16-17, 2014

Community:

1. What are some of the most famous verses of Scripture that are constantly put on coffee cups, t-shirts, or posters?
2. What's the danger of taking Scriptures like this out of their original context?

Core:

1. During this series we're going to look at a letter Paul writes to the church in Philippi around 50AD while he's in prison. How do his circumstances affect the way we understand these commonly quoted verses: Philippians 1:6; Philippians 1:21; Philippians 2:10-11; Philippians 3:7; Philippians 4:4; Philippians 4:13.
2. Read the background of Paul's work in Philippi in Acts 16:11-15. What would you be thinking if you started a missionary journey, and immediately a prominent person started following Jesus?
3. Now read verses 16-24. If you'd been beaten and thrown in jail like Paul, what would you be thinking about the missionary journey?
4. Read verse 25. During the discomfort and uncertainty of a jail cell, why do you think Paul and Silas started to sing?
5. Tell the group about a time when you, or someone you know, was going through a really hard time, but chose to trust and worship God anyway?
6. Finish reading the story in verses 26-40. When we're tempted to make the moral of this story, "If you just have faith, and sing songs when things are bad...God will change your circumstances and all your pain go away", what from the rest of Paul's life shows us that's not the lesson to be learned?

Challenge:

1. Read through Philippians chapter 1 as a group, and answer the following questions:
 - a. What is one verse that sticks out to you? Why?
 - b. What are some of the ways you would describe Paul's feelings for the church in Philippi?
 - c. How would you describe Paul's attitude about his situation?
2. What's one situation in your life that you could approach with an attitude like Paul had towards his situation in the Book of Philippians?