

FROM SETBACKS TO SETUPS

Colossians 4.2-18

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Colossians 4.2-4 // Matthew 4.2-4 // Philippians 1.29, 12-14

Human setbacks are gloriously transformed into divine setups.

-Sam Storms

Genesis 50.20 // Colossians 4.5, 6 // Matthew 5.13-16

There is a world of a difference between asking "Why me, Lord?" and asking "Why me, Lord?"

A ROLL CALL OF DIVINE SETUPS

Colossians 4.7-18

In Paul's farewell list, there are many stories of people who had serious setbacks, but were made into setups.

- **Tychicus:** delivered the letters to the **Colossians, Ephesians,** and **Philemon.**
- **Onesimus:** an escaped slave who got saved when hearing Paul preach the Gospel. He is the subject at hand in the letter to **Philemon**, who was an acquaintance of Paul and was Onesimus' master. Philemon also hosted a church in his home.
- **Aristarchus:** a constant companion on Paul's missionary journeys, he was also imprisoned for the Gospel.
- **Mark:** also known as John Mark, and is the cousin of **Barnabas.** He was invited on Paul's first missionary journey along with Barnabas, but for some reason, left prematurely. This upset Paul, and later on, when going on another journey, Barnabas thought that Mark had matured and was ready again. Paul disagreed, and a "sharp dispute" between these two friends caused them to split up. Later, however, Mark fell back into favor with Paul, becoming "useful" to him in ministry, and a source of encouragement.
- **Epaphras:** also imprisoned by the Gospel after planting the Colossian church (**Philemon 23**).
- **Luke:** author of the **Gospel of Luke** and the **Book of Acts.** Constant companion of Paul's.
- **Demas:** Demas, sadly, left the faith and chased the world (**2 Timothy 4.10**).
- **Nympha:** a woman who hosted a small house church in her home.
- **Archippus:** considered as a "fellow soldier" in **Philemon 2.**



NOTES:

Daily Devotionals:

Monday: Colossians 4.2-6
Tuesday: Philippians 1.12-14, 29
Wednesday: Matthew 5.13-16
Thursday: Colossians 4.7-18
Friday: Romans 8.18
Saturday: Genesis 50.20

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SERVING FAIR!

Last Sunday, we launched the 1st week of our Serving Fair. **Thank you** to those who signed up to serve - we're excited to have you on the team! **Due to the rainy weather, this week we've included a sheet** in your notes showing the current serving opportunities where you can **take your next step of faith** and get plugged in.

Let us know where you'd like to serve by **filling out the sheet and dropping it in the offering basket** at the end of service. If you have any questions please visit the Connection Booth.

GPS MEETING TOMORROW MARCH 3RD

Join us **Tomorrow Night at 7PM** here at the church for our quarterly GPS (Gospel Positioning Strategy) Meeting. **GPS is for anyone who calls Life Mission their home church** & is a time where we get together as a family to share what God has been doing in our lives, and hear where God is moving us forward as a church. Childcare will be provided. **Let us know on your Connection Card if you need childcare** so we can plan accordingly. It's always a great night of worship and fellowship.

BAPTISM, PARENT DEDICATIONS, & PICNIC!

Next Sunday, March 9th, we're so excited to be celebrating lives changed by Jesus with a **Baptism** as well as **parent's publicly dedicating themselves** to raise their children in the Gospel! Afterward, we'll celebrate with a **Picnic on the grassy field.** So, pack some lunch/something to sit on and stick around to have some fun with your church family. If you haven't been baptized, would like to participate in the dedications, or would like more info on either, **write it on your Connection Card and drop it off at the Connection Booth!**

MEN'S MINISTRY - MARCH 24TH

This month, we're launching our **Men's Ministry**, led by Pastor Jobey! This will be a great opportunity to connect with other men in the church and grow together in devotion and knowledge of God. We will meet **every other Monday night at 7PM.** **PLEASE help us plan by signing up** on your Connection Card!

SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Colossians 4:2-18**. What stuck out to you the most or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday or from these verses? _____

Now read **Colossians 4:2-4** only. What is Paul encouraging early Christians to do?

Read **Philippians 1:12-14**. What has happened to Paul when he wrote these verses and how does that help you deal with your setbacks in life? How is Paul turning a bad thing (being in prison) a good thing? _____

"Human setbacks are gloriously transformed into divine setups." Do you agree or disagree with this quote and why? What are some verses that help you believe that if you do? _____

Our reaction to life's difficulties is often, "Why me, Lord?" with an attitude like we are a human piñata. What setbacks, suffering or hardships *have* you experienced in your life and how did you respond? Recall times when you responded poorly, and times that you responded with the attitude of Paul (if there are any!!!) _____

Read **Ephesians 6:18-20** and **Philippians 1:29**. How can you be an "ambassador in chains" in your past, present or future sufferings for God's glory and your joy?

Knowing that we will experience more pain, suffering or setbacks in this life, how do you hope to respond during the next one? Read **James 1:2-4**, **1 Peter 4:13** and **Romans 8.18** and **12:12**. _____

What *current trial* or issue are you dealing with that you need to get that "Gospel opportunity" perspective? If there are no glaring issues, like sickness or joblessness, easy ways to identify more subtle issues are by asking yourself what things make you think "seriously?!" or "here we go again," or "oh, great," or "why me, Lord?" or any other circumstance that gets you complaining, frustrated, or irritated. _____

What do you think you can do to even prepare yourself for the next trial so that you can see it as an opportunity or "open door" for the Gospel? One "hint" is in **Colossians 2.2-4**. _____

Spend some time in prayer thanking God for the times he has turned your setbacks into setups, or used your suffering for a chance to glorify Him.