



Rejoice in the Lord

Handout May 19, 2023

Welcome back and here we go!

Well, as you can see, Alma Lynn and the rest of you all have made a huge mess! But don't worry, I have a hat and a horse and I think I can help!

Tonight's message comes out of Philippians 4. **Philippians 4:4-20**

1) We should start every _____ with _____!

This week has been an amazing opportunity for love and fellowship. I talked last week about possessions and how items given to us have real meaning to the person gifting us.

So, Paul's words, "**Let your gentleness be known**", ring through my ears. Although I am a little bit crazy and in no way conform to the mold of a prim and proper preacher ----- when it matters, I am gentle.

And so were all the volunteers this week.

Philippians 4:6-7 'Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.'

Another thing that was evident this week was ---

2) _____ runs deep in our society today!

In the taking of time to pray for others, it is evident that most people have real concerns today. How wonderful to be able to help calm those nerves.

In one case, a woman had to move to long term care facility, effectively giving up most of her life's possessions. What turmoil, fear, and worry come with that kind of move. Just imagine if you were told that next week you need to downsize to 600 square feet and you get to keep 3 pieces of furniture and no appliances!

It was in this instance that our members showed up strong! Even though Face of Grace was being gifted, we ultimately were caring for the person giving..... and

3) _____ what things are _____!

Philippians 4:8-10 'Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.'

Another beautiful story: Someone gave us a new Greenhouse and antique desk with a granite/marble top. In the short time I spent with them I learned of a loss, an imminent move, and all of the emotions that come with that.

Being able to pray and reassure and remind them of all the good things and the memories and God's future provision ----- is the real gift!

But the Greenhouse --- to me --- represents all of the beautiful things we want to do --- may even start --
- but ultimately don't get to do. It represents DREAMS IN A SEALED BOX!

4) In order to _____ for today sometimes we have to let _____!

Another kind man brought us a couch and a loveseat. In the short time we were together, I learned of his loss of a son. We cried and he shared and at the end he said, "I have no idea why I am sharing all of this." It was a beautiful healing moment. God, the Holy Spirit, prompted me to tell him that his son was called home right on time.

"Grief" ----- Passage

Are you staying focused on what's good and true, or on the pain of the past? Let go.

Philippians 4:10-13 *'But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.'*

5) True _____ brings _____.

Look around this place and the mess these people have made! What a beautiful mess.

These verses are actually leading into one of the greatest tithing/giving message there is. In essence, Paul praises the Philippians for giving, saying it wasn't that he needed it, rather they needed the blessings.

6) We didn't _____ this fundraiser.

I say that because we are an extremely healthy ministry. Our bills are paid, there is ample opportunity, we have a healthy, vibrant fellowship and God's Word is taught.

The opportunity for fellowship and for giving to the community and each other is what's most important.

7) Tomorrow is our _____.

We have been blessed and now we get to bless our neighbors and friends.

Philippians 4:14-20 *'Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.'*

Show up! Show up Saturday and Sunday. Receive the blessings God has for you in terms of love and fellowship. You all have given so much already. Now witness the fruit of it.

God promises to supply all your needs. I for one, BELIEVE HIM!

NOTE: There will no studies on Monday or Tuesday, May 22nd and May 23rd. We will be cleaning and painting and rearranging etc.