

People matter most.

Living for Legacy.

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Living for Legacy Part 3—Prison Church Network
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“GOD, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO THROUGH ME?”

Be ready to give God your ‘yes’ before the door opens.

[1 Corinthians 16:9]

For a great and effective door of ministry has opened to me, and ***there are*** many adversaries.

Any time that you’re ready to go through some open doors, there are challenges and distractions.

When you have your ‘yes’ ready, unexpected opportunities are waiting for you.

[Mark 2:17]

When Jesus heard this, he told them, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

“75% of everyone who does time in prison and is released, returns to prison within 3 years.”

The church is the system that God has set up to help in all areas of brokenness.

THE FATHERLESS HOME

- 63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes– 5 times the national average
- 90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes – 32 times the average.
(US Dept. Of Health/Census)
- 85% of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes – 20 times the average.
(Center for Disease Control)
- 80% of rapists with anger problems come from fatherless homes –14 times the average.
(Justice & Behavior, Vol 14, p. 403-26)
- 71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes – 9 times the average.
(National Principals Association Report)
- 70% of youths in state-operated institutions come from fatherless homes – 9 times the average.
(U.S. Dept. of Justice, Sept. 1988)
- 85% of all youths in prison come from fatherless homes – 20 times the average.
(Fulton Co. Georgia, Texas Dept. of Correction)

If the words of Jesus are true...then what?

[Psalm 68:4-6]

Sing praises to God and to his name!

Sing loud praises to him who rides the clouds.

His name is the LORD—

rejoice in his presence!

Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—

this is God, whose dwelling is holy. **God places the lonely in families;**

he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy.

[Matthew 25:31-36]

“But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. **I was in prison, and you visited me.**’

We’re here to leave a legacy. Consider the heart of God and practice obedience.

FOR MONDAY—

- 1.** Exercise gratefulness by verbalizing what God has done in your life. Displace any inclination toward complaint with thanksgiving.
- 2.** Pray for the fatherless. Ask God to set them in families and for strong mentoring figures to enter their lives.
- 3.** Find a way to personally connect to God’s heart for prisoners, even if just in prayer. Share what God has spoken to you.

TALK IT THROUGH

- 1.** In your experience, what happens when you live a generous life? Living with an open hand, where have you seen needs arise?
- 2.** How does Jesus' heart for the broken and the sick motivate how we should live? [Mark 2:17]
- 3.** What doors of ministry are open for you to take spiritual ground? [1 Corinthians 16:9] Why do you think new levels of opposition come with them?
- 4.** What does Jesus say to us about those in prison? What are our biblical responsibilities to them?
- 5.** What do you think of the connection between "The Fatherless Home" and those serving time in prison? How might that context influence choice and consequences?
- 6.** 75% of people who are released from prison end up back in incarceration. How can we meet the tangible needs of our Prison Church Network family to combat that? What is your part to play?
- 7.** Why do you think our church plants campuses versus holding religious services? What does it take to directly facilitate an experience of the presence of God in the church behind walls?
- 8.** Outside of incarceration, what kind of prisons are people living in all around us? Where can you intentionally help people find freedom?