



# When Life Gives You Lemons

## Philippians 1:12-26

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1. From this morning's message, what do you think of the "Spiritual Scanner" idea?
2. Would you sign up?
3. What do you think a scanner would reveal about what people are bringing with them to worship? (i.e. What do you think are the dominant moods or spiritual attitudes people bring to church?)
4. What do you expect from the service of worship? (i.e. What should people be like when they leave worship? Any difference in mood and spiritual attitude?)
5. What affect might such a scanner have on our fellowship?
6. Read Psalm 139:23,24. Have you ever prayed a prayer like this?

### **Paul's Circumstances (verses 12-18)**

1. In what ways are Paul's circumstances different than what you may experience?
2. In what ways are Paul's circumstances similar to what you may experience?
3. What does Paul mean when he says that he is rejoicing and that he will rejoice?
4. What is it that Paul rejoices in?
5. Is it easy or hard to rejoice in adverse circumstances? Why or why not?

### **Paul's Attitude (verses 19-26)**

1. The bottom line heart level attitude behind how Paul approached life is found in verse 21. What does Paul mean by, "*For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain*"?
2. How did Paul's attitude affect his response to his circumstances? How was Paul's attitude evidenced in his relationship with: 1) His guards; 2) Those sharing the gospel; and 3) The Philippian believers?
3. How is Paul's attitude (verse 21) at the core of what it means to follow Jesus?
4. What do you think would have been the results if Paul had not had this attitude?

### **Processing all that...**

1. How's your attitude?
  - a. If someone were chained to you for four hours, especially in adverse circumstances, what would they discover about you? What would they learn about following Jesus?
  - b. These days, what does it mean for you personally to "*live is Christ, and to die is gain*"?
  - c. These days, what are you intentionally doing to make that truth a greater reality in your life?
2. What's your desire?
  - a. Would you agree / disagree that how we are living (what we are giving our time, talents, and treasure to) demonstrates what we really believe at the heart level?
  - b. Putting that slightly closer to home: What do your actions reveal about what you are really passionate about? Put another way: These days, what are you passionate about?
  - c. In the time that God gives you what would you desire to see Him do in and through you?
  - d. These days, what are you doing to intentionally invest your time in seeing that desire become a reality?
3. Thinking about the above questions and answers, how might your Life Group encourage each other to live out the truth expressed by Paul in verse 21.