WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Notes

Sermon Title: Will You Join? – Kevin Garratt shares his testimony of his time in a Chinese prison

Key Scripture: 1 Thess 5:16-18, 1 Cor 4:7, Rom 8:31, Genesis 37-45 (story of Joseph), John 5:17 and 1 Peter 3:15

Recorded Sermon: https://www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/guest-speaker-kevin-garratt

Date + Speaker: October 29, 2023 Kevin Garratt (author of 'Two Tears on the Window')

Starter Question:

1. How would you answer this question: "What is the will of God for my life?" Read 1 Thess 5:16-18 How does this modify your answer? What do you learn?

Discussion Questions to Review (observation):

2. Kevin Garratt described his time in prison as an ordeal ('a protracted, painful experience') he does not want to ever repeat. He pointed out that they did not 'feel' like the 'light and momentary' troubles referred to in 1 Corinthians, but he knew and called to mind Romans 8:31. How has/does the truth in this passage bring you comfort?

3. Having been falsely accused, mistreated in prison and forgotten by his country's officials, Kevin thought often of Joseph. Is there a character in the Bible you can most closely relate to and why?

Discussion Questions for Digging Deeper (interpretation and application):

4. At one point the Chinese transferred him to a 'Black Jail' where he was never alone, the lights were on 24/7 and he was only allowed out of his cell for 30 minutes per month. During this dark time he had a choice and we do too – ***Will we join Jesus in what He wants to do in our situation – or not?*** During an intense time of persecution Jesus himself responded this way, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working." What challenges or blockages are there in your life that are shaking your faith?

5. At his lowest point, Garratt cried out to God and he was encouraged. His circumstances hadn't changed but the 'atmosphere' had. Have you had an experience like that? Would you share it so others can be encouraged?

6. Finally, Garratt shared how important it was to be ready to share the Good News (1 Peter 3:15). Let God be God but be ready to do your part when someone comes to you and asks about Jesus. How, practically, can one be prepared?