

through prayer is obedience. Paul did not create his joy, Jesus did. After he said he was “content in any situation” he said, “I can do all things through Christ who gives me my strength.”

He had {b} a *purpose in life*. He kept on serving God and helping people from his cell. He sent four letters of help, instruction and encouragement to people in four churches. He witnessed to every soldier he was chained to and the gospel went all through their barracks. He calmed the fears of the wonderful people at Philippi who were worried about him. He told them he longed to see them, but if he couldn't and was executed, it meant he was with Jesus and see them in heaven one day.

He had {c} a *place, person* and a lot of *wonderful people* he loved waiting in heave for him. He had {d} *people like the Philippians* in his life who loved him and he wrote this letter to thank them for it.

Most of our unhappiness comes from being all wrapped up in ourselves, wanting “my” peace, “my” stress free life, “my way”. Jesus says, “It is more blessed [happy, joyful] to give than to receive.”[Acts 20:35]Nothing tears up a home more than selfishness. I tell couples if they go into marriage wanting their mate to make them happy, they won't find it.

They find it when their goal is do everything they can to make their husband or wife happy.

The Miracle Mile In the Sermon on the Mount [Matt. 5-7] Jesus tells us, if someone makes us go one mile, go two miles. Behind this was the Roman practice that people in subject-nations could be made to carry a soldier's baggage for one mile.

The Jews despised this practice and almost every one of them knew exactly where the one-mile spot on the road was from their house.

Suppose a young Jewish boy is playing in the yard and a soldier commands him to carry his luggage. His day is ruined. Under his breath he says, “Stinking Romans”. He gets to that one-mile point on the road; drops the baggage and heads home. Getting home he kicks the dog that comes to greet him and doesn't want any supper.

Suppose he is a Christian and talks with that soldier and finds out he has a son 800 miles away he is not seen in two years and has just learned that he is sick. He tells the soldier he will pray for his family and for him. The soldier asks why he believes prayer will do any good and why he cares. The young man tells him about Jesus. They keep talking and they realize they are way past the one-mile-marker. The young man sets the bags down and shakes his hand.

Getting home he pets his dog and throws a stick for him to fetch. At supper he says, “You know, not all Roman soldiers are bad” and tells them about his day. At the same time the soldier is eating supper in the barracks and says, “You know, not all Jewish people hate us.” And tells them about his day.

I always told Mary Ann if I am ever bedridden to put all my church directories by my bed. They have the pictures of my heroes. One was ‘Melvin’. He had a stroke that put him in a nursing home. He always had a joke for me. When he got there he asked for a private room. After two years one came open and he turned it down. He said he wanted to stay there because the lady whose husband was there often needed his help and he didn't want to leave her husband and her.