

Why was my Brother Taken and What Can We Do?

11/6/16

Q1. Why was my brother taken?

Answer: It is part of an eternal plan

Matthew 10:16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; therefore be shrewd as serpents, and innocent as doves.

¹⁷ "But beware of men; for they will deliver you up to *the* courts, and scourge you in their synagogues;

¹⁸ and you shall even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

¹⁹ "But when they deliver you up, do not become anxious about how or what you will speak; for it shall be given you in that hour what you are to speak.

²⁰ "For it is not you who speak, but *it is* the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

²¹ "And brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents, and cause them to be put to death.

²² "And you will be hated by all on account of My name..."

Matthew 24:9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name.

¹⁰ "And at that time many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Acts 14:21 And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,

²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

Q2. What can we do? Answer:

1. Never forget that he is my brother and he and his family are hurting

1 Corinthians 12:12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

²⁷ Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

Hebrews 13:1 Let love of the brethren continue.

² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

³ Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

2. Pray

Romans 15:29 And I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fulness of the blessing of Christ.

³⁰ Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me,

³¹ that I may be delivered from those who are disobedient in Judea, and *that* my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints;

³² so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and find *refreshing* rest in your company.

Ephesians 6:19 and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

²¹ But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you.

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of* thanksgiving;

³ praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;

⁴ in order that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.

⁵ Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.

⁶ Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, *as it were*, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.

⁷ As to all my affairs, Tychicus, *our* beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information.

⁸ For I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know *about* our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts;

3. Try to stay informed of his condition

2 Corinthians 1:8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came *to us* in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life;

⁹ indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;

4. Try to communicate with him

Hebrews 10:32 But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings,

³³ partly, by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.

³⁴ For you showed sympathy to the prisoners, and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one.

5. Try to advocate for him

Acts 16:35 Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their policemen, saying, "Release those men."

³⁶ And the jailer reported these words to Paul, *saying*, "The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Now therefore, come out and go in peace."

³⁷ But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us in public without trial, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out."

³⁸ And the policemen reported these words to the chief magistrates. And they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans,

³⁹ and they came and appealed to them, and when they had brought them out, they kept begging them to leave the city.

6. Support his family

2 Corinthians 8:1 Now, brethren, we *wish to* make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

² that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

³ For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability *they gave* of their own accord,

⁴ begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

⁵ and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

7. Follow his example

Philippians 1:12 Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,

¹³ so that my imprisonment in *the cause of* Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,

¹⁴ and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

8. Join the team who is trying to help him