

Life Group Study

Charlotte Gambill – When Lockdown Becomes Breakthrough (05/04/20)



Recap

In this preach, Charlotte focuses on the idea “When Lockdown Becomes Breakthrough”. Even though we are experiencing a time of lockdown in the natural world, we can still see through the challenges and find a seed of provision inside. In the Bible we can see multiple cases of people that were faced with problems in their lives, and that understood that breakthrough was possible, but realized that something had to shift inside them first, so that things started to change around them. Charlotte takes us into **Psalm 42** to remind us that we have a choice to make in these times: we can either choose to stay locked down or to seek our breakthrough. There is something that waits on our change, on our confession, and that will lead us into a much more everlasting breakthrough.

To help us understand how this can be seen in our lives, Pastor Charlotte focuses then on **the life of Jonah**. This is a story of a man that was on lockdown, but that found breakthrough in that journey. He was a man that was running away from something that he knew he had to do, because he still felt he had issues in his life that he needed to work on first. When in lockdown we suddenly find ourselves in a season when we no longer can run away from things we are trying to avoid, the areas in our lives that we actually need to change. And some of the greatest work God is going to do inside of us comes when we don’t have anywhere else to run to – when we are stuck. In Jonah’s story, we can see that God didn’t use the whale as punishment, but as a place for him to hide, a place of provision. The place of lockdown for Jonah became a place where he was protected from the outside struggles, and also a place where he could become exposed and vulnerable before God, facing down some things that he had been avoiding for too long.

It was the change that happened in Jonah, inside of that whale that changed his destiny and the destiny of many others. The same God that heard Jonah’s cry in **Jonah 2** will listen to yours in this season of lockdown. Like Jonah, we can find in this season of lockdown where our breakthrough will come from. The lockdown for Jonah became a place where his pride and stubbornness transformed into surrender and commitment. And that change on Jonah’s heart led the whale to return him to dry land. The shift inside of him led to a change around him. When he left his lockdown, he didn’t carry the same fragrance of pride he carried before. In that same way, the stubbornness or anger or anxiety that you carried before doesn’t need to come with you anymore, because this experience will change how you look, smell, speak and move.

Pastor Charlotte concludes with the story of **Paul and Silas** in the prison, to show how lockdown can be a place where our sound can shift something in the atmosphere around us as well. Even though Paul and Silas were in prison, they still decided to praise and sing out to God. This sound made the other prisoners stop and listen to what they were singing, because Paul and Silas’ response was not a normal one in a time of lockdown. Charlotte suggests that this can be our reality as a church as well: even though we are stuck in a place, our song and prayer can still make people that have never paid attention before, start listening to God. We can see not just our lockdown change, but people’s lockdown around us change as well. In their state of lockdown, people can still come to us looking for that same breakthrough that we have found, the salvation that we have experienced.



Scripture

Psalms 42:4-7 (TPT) So I speak over my heartbroken soul, “Take courage. Remember when you used to be right out front leading the procession of praise when the great crowd of worshipers gathered to go into the presence of the Lord? You shouted with joy as the sound of passionate celebration filled the air and the joyous multitude of lovers honored the festival of the Lord!”⁵ So then, my soul, why would you be depressed? Why would you sink into despair? Just keep hoping and waiting on God, your Savior. For no matter what, I will still sing with praise, for living before his face is my saving grace!⁶ Here I am depressed and downcast. Yet I will still remember you as I ponder the place where your glory streams down from the mighty mountaintops, lofty and majestic—the *mountains of your awesome presence*.⁷ My deep need calls out to the deep kindness of your love.

Psalms 42:11 (TPT) So I say to my soul, “Don’t be discouraged. Don’t be disturbed. For I know my God will break through for me.”

Jonah 2:1-2 (NIV) ¹From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. ²He said: “In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry.

Jonah 2:5-7 (NIV) ⁵The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. ⁶To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, Lord my God, brought my life up from the pit. ⁷“When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.

Jonah 2:9-10 (NIV) ⁹But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the Lord.’”
¹⁰And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

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Acts 16:25-30 (NIV) ²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. ²⁷The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!” ²⁹The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”



Questions

1. What would you like to see developed in your character during this time, and how can you take steps for that during this week?
2. Who are the people in your world that need to experience breakthrough in this time?
3. How can you help those people in their next steps closer to God?



Prayer

Areas that we should pray over include:

1. Pray for God to show you how this time can be a season of breakthrough for you and others
2. Pray for a new compassion for those in your neighborhood that need to know God’s love