

# Mission Mindset Quiet Time Series

April – The Will of the Mission

Week 16: Willing to Suffer

## Colossians 1:24

- Paul was currently suffering under house arrest as he wrote this letter, he suffered because he preached a message of inclusion: Gentiles were included in the work of God. This meant that the Christ could be—indeed was—resident among the Gentiles. The message was broadly messianic and offended many Jews who did not want the blessings of the messianic kingdom to go to Gentiles. It also caused a reaction among Gentiles who saw a threat to their religious practices and economic livelihood. Paul suffered in two ways. He suffered the attacks of those he sought to reach with the gospel, and he suffered at the hands of the Jews who sought to stop the advance of the gospel
- Paul understood that any suffering for the gospel was completing the suffering of Christ, not that it was redemptive or that Christ suffering was insufficient for our salvation, but rather that the suffering Paul was experiencing for the gospel continued the suffering of advancing the gospel. Suffering is necessary for the gospel to advance, we are in a spiritual war and the enemy does not go quietly into the night.
- If we are not willing to suffer, the gospel will not advance, souls will not be saved. We must be willing to suffer to see the salvation of many around us.
  - *In what ways do we suffer for the gospel today?*
  - *How have you suffered from preaching boldly before?*
  - *What about suffering scares you?*
  - *Why is suffering for the gospel worth it? What good does it accomplish?*
  - *Are you willing to suffer? Are you willing to be rejected? Are you willing to be mocked? Are you willing to love people until it hurts? Are you willing to open your heart and your life to people?*

## Colossians 1:25-29

- Paul strenuously contended or labored so that EVERYONE may be presented fully mature in Christ. Converting and Discipling takes effort, it is described as a labor.
- Labor is used to describe manual labor, extremely taxing work that exhausts you and makes you sweat, or birthing labor, an incredibly painful experience to bring life into this world.
- We must not be surprised that it takes work and effort to help someone become a Christian and to stay a Christian. We must understand that this is a labor of love. It's going to take hard work, BUT, the energy to do this labor comes from God.
- To effectively make disciples who make disciples, to effectively win the world, we must be willing to be filled with energy from God and then completely exhaust that energy giving to others, holding none for ourselves.
  - *Are you willing to commit to the labor of love?*
  - *Why do we buy the lie that it should be easy? What happens when we believe its going to be easy?*
  - *How well are you filled with God's energy and zeal daily?*
  - *What would it look like for you to exhaust all of God's energy for helping people to become Christians and stay Christians?*
  - *How can you be more filled with God's energy tomorrow?*

Application: Take time to reflect on Paul's words, this is a labor of love. Pray about being willing to suffer for the salvation of many souls. Examine how you can be more filled with God's zeal and energy daily.