

Becoming Disheartened

- When might people become disheartened?
- How might following Jesus make us disheartened?
- It seems:
 “If we’re living as God asks us to,
 and if God is good,
 and if God answers prayer,
 this life shouldn’t be so challenging!”

What are we to do when life in Jesus
is still pretty disheartening?

1

Life in the Storm: Not Disheartened

2 Corinthians 4

ref.ly/2Co4;niv



2

2 Corinthians 4

Paul will say:

- Following God can be disheartening
so we can be tempted to find easier roads
- But God brings His Light **into** our darkness
God puts His goodness **into** our troubles
(like treasure **into** clay pots)
as it was for Jesus: death brought life
- So by faith we are **inwardly** strengthened,
to the praise of God in future glory

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2 Corinthians 4

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, **we do not lose heart.**

² Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

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³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ **as Lord**, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ **For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.**

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⁷ But we have this **treasure in jars of clay** to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, _____ but not crushed; perplexed, _____ but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, _____ but not abandoned; struck down, _____ but not destroyed.

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¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. ¹² So then, **death is at work in us**, but life is at work in you.

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¹³ It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, **we also believe and therefore speak**, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. ¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the **grace that is reaching more and more people** may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

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¹⁶ Therefore **we do not lose heart**. Though **outwardly we are wasting away**, yet **inwardly we are being renewed** day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So **we fix our eyes not on what is seen**, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

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¹ Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, **we do not lose heart**.

¹⁶ Therefore **we do not lose heart**.

10

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¹⁰ **We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus**, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who are alive are **always being given over to death for Jesus' sake...**

Death of Jesus → hard pressed, perplexed,
persecuted, struck down
BECAUSE of the Gospel

Life of Jesus → not destroyed, fruit of Spirit,
fruitful ministry, hope, perseverance
Then resurrection to glory

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18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

What is seen

→ What is obvious now

What is unseen

→ What is not obvious now

→ What will be true after death

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The Big Idea 1

**Living out our relationship with Christ
can be disheartening**

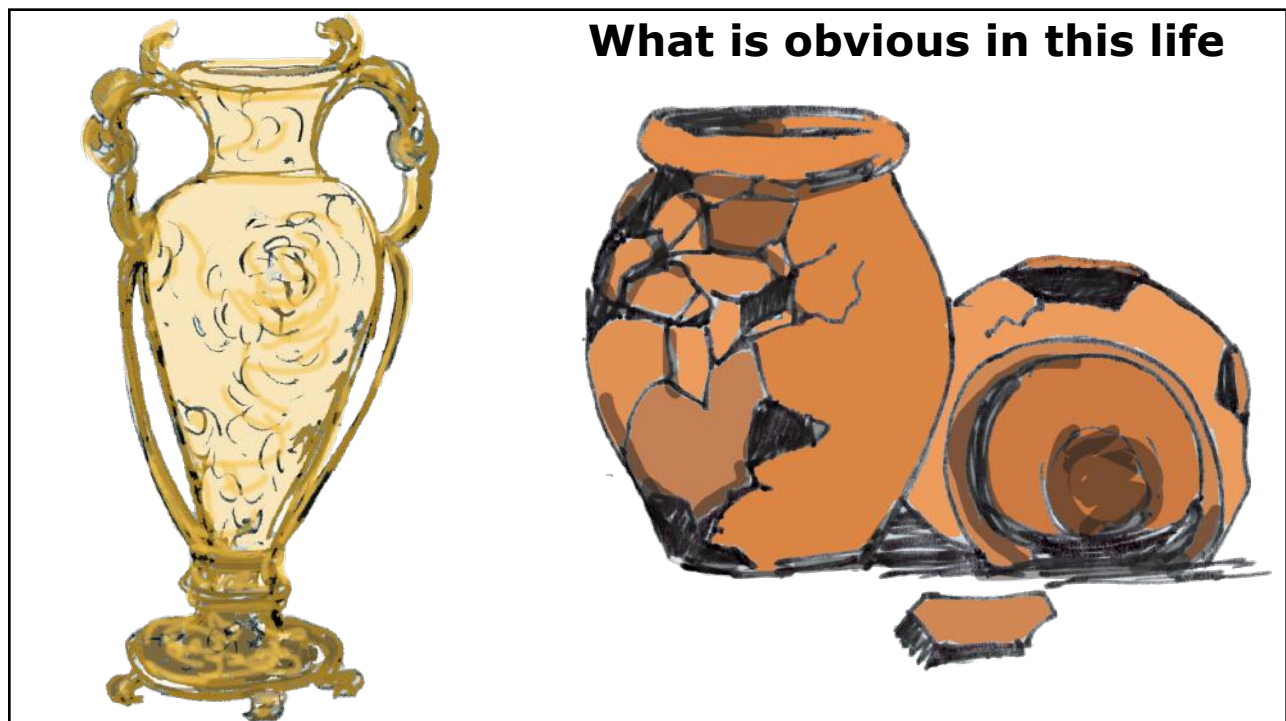
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The Big Idea 2

**By God's design as we live in the Gospel...
we live in weakness and trouble
with inner renewal today
for future eternal glory**

This is the nature of true discipleship

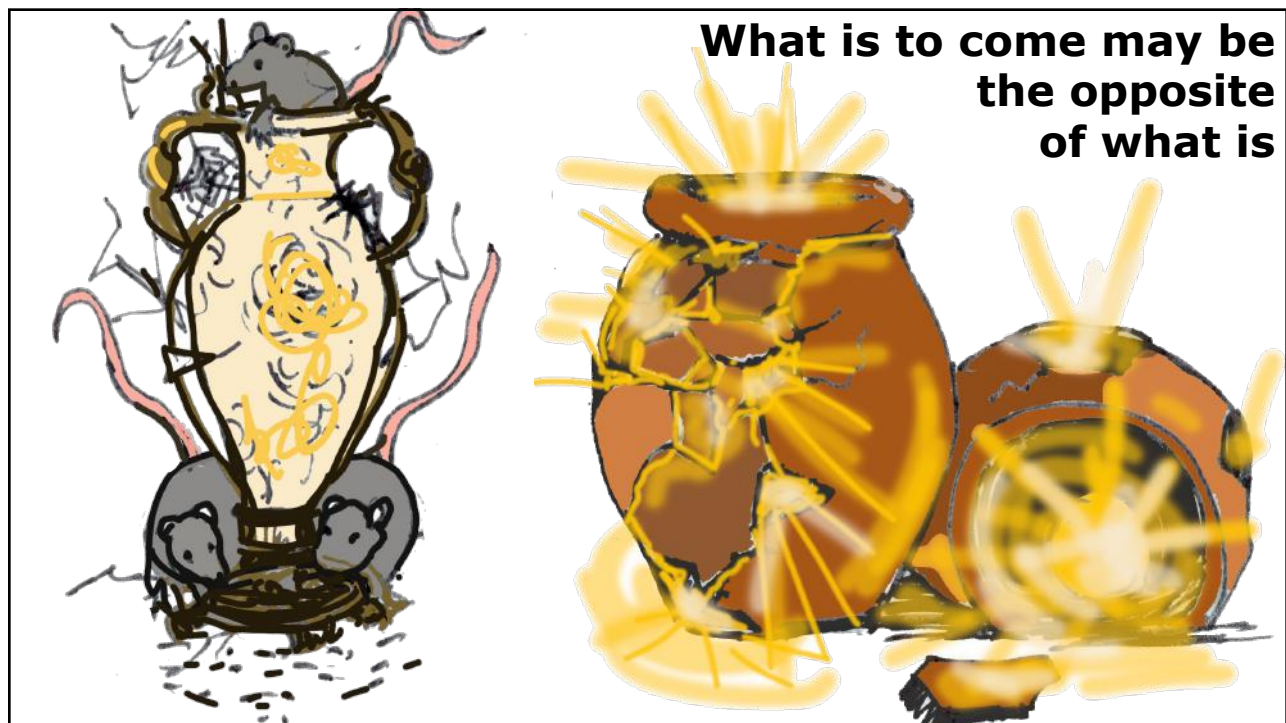
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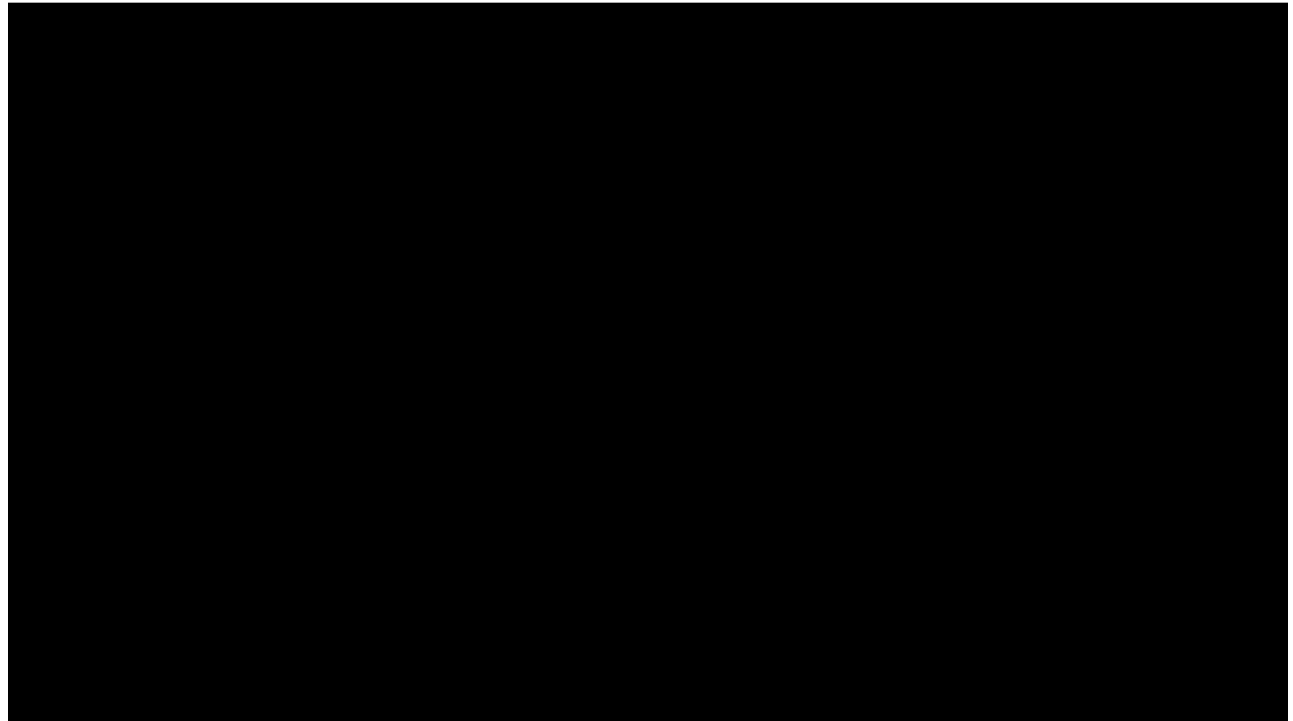
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18



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The Big Idea 2

**By God's design as we live in the Gospel...
we live in weakness and trouble
with inner renewal today
for future eternal glory**

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What are we to do?

Do not lose heart → be zealous

- Fix our eyes on the unseen
 - Today: inward renewal by the Spirit
 - Future: overwhelming glory with Christ
- Follow Jesus by faith

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The Big Idea 2

By God's design as we live in the Gospel...
we live in weakness and trouble
with inner renewal today
for future eternal glory

This is the nature of true discipleship

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- ⁵ In your relationships with one another,
have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
- ⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
 did not consider equality with God something
 to be used to his own advantage;
- ⁷ rather, **he made himself nothing
 by taking the very nature of a servant,**
 being made in human likeness.
- ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
 he humbled himself
 by becoming **obedient to death—
 even death on a cross!** *Philippians 2:5-8*

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Sometimes we think:
 “If we’re living as God asks us to,
 and if God is good,
 and if God answers prayer,
 this life shouldn’t be so challenging!”

Jesus taught:
 If we aren’t experiencing challenge
 BECAUSE OF the Gospel, we must ask
 if we are truly living according to it

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¹⁰ We always carry around in our body
the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus
may also be revealed in our body.

Death of Jesus: Jesus made himself nothing,
living as a servant, even to death

Life of Jesus:

Glorious transforming presence in trouble
Then joining in His glory in paradise forever!

25

*Therefore we do not lose heart.
Though outwardly we are wasting away,
Yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.
For our light and momentary troubles
are achieving for us an eternal glory
that far outweighs them all.*

2 Corinthians 4:16,17

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Questions

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