

WIN THE DAY: TOMORROW STARTS TODAY

Part 4: Why the Obstacle Is the Way

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021

As we pursue our hopes, dreams, and goals, there's one big problem: the fact that we'll run into problems. What do you do when something goes wrong, or even if *everything* goes wrong?

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- There *will* be obstacles that get in our way.
 - “The obstacle is the way.” -Ryan Holiday
 - **John 16:33** - “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
 - There's no version of a rich, full life that doesn't involve obstacles and hard things.
 - Comfort is not the way. Escaping is not the way. The obstacle is the way.
 - On the way to greatness, you will go through great difficulty, too.
 - **Matthew 26:38-39** - “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.” ...Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.’”
 - What's your motivation as you press on through obstacles?
 - We go through everything we go through because of love, love that sacrifices, love that was demonstrated to us in and through Jesus.
 - Choose the mindset you have about your obstacles.
 - “There is the event itself, and **the story we tell ourselves about what it means.**” -Ryan Holiday
 - Practice dealing with difficult things, starting with the small, daily things.
 - **Romans 5:3-5** - ...we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.
 - Lean into the hard things. Trust God through them. Develop character and hope in the process.
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's an obstacle you're facing or have faced that you wish you could just push an “Easy” button and have it taken care of?
2. How would you rate your ability to deal with difficult things you didn't plan for?
3. Before he was arrested and crucified, Jesus felt overwhelmed with sorrow and prayed this: “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”
What can you learn from what and how Jesus prays in that moment?
4. In what small ways can you practice leaning into the hard things on a daily or weekly basis to train for the bigger things down the road?
5. In Romans 5:3-5, the apostle Paul writes: “...we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” Do you believe that? Why or why not? Have you experienced this at all--the development of hope and character by going through obstacles?