

Another Day

Biblical reflections for busy teachers



I'm a teacher . . . get me out of here!

Ever felt that the celebrity jungle experience might be easier than what you face daily?

Most people have days when nothing seems to go right. The task you've been set is too challenging and the monsters you face just seem ready to engulf you. "Get me out of here!" you scream in your head, but no-one seems to hear. There is no Ant and Dec standing by to intervene. The classroom walls just close in on you until the bell goes. You breathe a sigh of relief as the last child leaves the room.

A bit extreme?

Circumstances can command and challenge even the most rational of people. And there is usually someone who has been or is in far worse predicaments than yours. Imagine being Terry Waite or one of the other hostages of our time who effectively lose years of their freedom at the whim of terrorists. Or the more recent cases of young women held in cellars since childhood by the very people who should have protected them from such evil.

Again, extreme.

Look at Paul, missionary, preacher, pastor, apostle banged up for two or more years against his will but probably at his own cost in Rome, the city he had longed to visit and reach for Christ. We know from history that this was to become the place of his martyrdom. Surely he must have felt like crying out, "I am Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, get me out of here!"

Paul's unique and history-making story ends in the biblical account with:

"For two whole years Paul stayed in his own rented house, and welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 28:30-31

This is the model for each person facing challenging circumstances:

- Making the most of every opportunity
- Rising above self-pity and reaching out to those around
- Finding courage and hope in Christ

Extreme? Or, extremely possible?

Lord, I may not enjoy everything that today appears to hold for me but help me to see every person who crosses the threshold of my classroom as someone to whom I can demonstrate the compassion of Christ and where possible, sensitively, share your grace in word or deed. Please help me to persevere to your glory until you lead me to a different place of your choosing. Amen.