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Here's Hope
by Rev. Jerry Rea

You Can Sing in a Cage

It's possible, though your life be filled with trials and there is no end in sight, to still sing. Like a bird in a cage, you may be locked in. I mean, you may be locked in a bad job, or locked into bad circumstances. You may be locked into a painful lifestyle emotionally or physically. You may have wanted to have kids, but that isn't going to happen. You may have had to retire early and live on less than you ever thought you would. You may live under the burden of a broken heart. Can you really sing while locked into these situations? Yes you can!

There are roughly two attitudes that we may take in a cage. First, there is the "I'm in a Cage" attitude. Nothing good can happen until I get out. I'll never be worth anything till this is over. I need, really need, to get out of this job, this marriage, this pain, etc. Then there is the attitude of some in the Bible while they are locked in. I mean people like Paul - locked in a prison. What about Meshack, Shadrack and Abednego - locked into a fiery furnace? Think about Daniel - locked into the lion's den. Within their cage they still were faithful to God and He still used them. Within their cage they found a way to maintain hope and even strong faith. Consider the end of the life of Paul. Before he was martyred, he was locked in a Roman prison. But, you know what he did? He wrote letters to his friends at the various churches around. These letters eventually became the letters of the New Testament. They were written out of prison, but from a heart that could not be bound.

There is no doubt circumstances may bind us on the outside. There is no doubt that burdens and problems pelt us almost every day. Some of these will never go away. But, you can sing in a cage. How? Paul and Daniel and the brothers in the furnace all had a life that was bigger than their problem. They served a God whose work continues even if their life did not. They had something inside that made their outside irrelevant. They were living in the temporary, but had latched onto eternity. Do you have that inside connection? That's where our songs come from anyway. May God help you to make that connection and may it not just be a reality, but an abiding force in your heart.

I Love You,
Jerry Rea