

Why You Can Worship When the Enemy Rages Against You

Vibia Perpetua was a young woman of noble birth who lived in the first century A.D. She was well-educated for a woman of her time and was known to be breathtakingly beautiful. Vibia Perpetua was one of the first converts to Christianity in North Africa and knew that her newfound and vibrant faith would inevitably cost her everything. She understood that publicly declaring her Christianity could require her to sacrifice her beloved family and her very life.

When the day came that Perpetua was arrested, she was first taken to prison to await trial before the tribunal. In prison, her spirit became burdened not for herself but for her infant son whom she was forced to leave behind. Because this noble Christian woman came from an influential family, they were able to prevail upon the political leaders in their town to bring the infant son to her.

These are the words written nearly 2,000 years ago by this precious mother:

“I suckled my child, who was already weak from want of nourishment—and then I obtained leave that my child should remain with me in the prison. Immediately I gained strength and being relieved of my anxiety about the child, my prison suddenly became to me a palace, so that I preferred to be there rather than anywhere else.”

On the day of her trial, Vibia Perpetua refused to renounce her faith and was sentenced to death in the arena. She knew she would be torn apart by ravenous, wild beasts and then beheaded by the gladiator's sharp and cruel sword.

Perpetua marched into the arena to meet her untimely and grossly unfair death while singing psalms of praise and

worship!

My prayer is that you will always remember this unforgettable and courageous mother whose prison became a palace and whose death became a grand symphony simply because she was a woman of unswerving and valiant faith.

I don't know what your circumstances might be like today, but I want to encourage you that no matter what you are facing, you can learn a lesson from this first-century mother. When life is hard, worship!

When your circumstances are crumbling out of control, sing louder!

When you feel your heart racing due to fear or frustration, put your hands in the air and offer heartfelt praise to God for the life you have been given!

Don't allow any challenge or any circumstance in life to take your song away from you. Sing louder ... sing anyway ... sing in spite of! No day is wasted that is given to the Lord with songs of praise. {eo}

Listen as Carol McLeod teaches how to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Carol McLeod is an author and popular speaker at women's conferences and retreats, where she teaches the Word of God with great joy and enthusiasm. Carol encourages and empowers women with passionate and practical biblical messages mixed with her own special brand of hope and humor. She has written 10 books, including *The Rooms of a Woman's Heart; Defiant Joy!; Holy Estrogen!; No More Ordinary; Refined; Joy For All Seasons; Let There Be Joy!; Pass the Joy, Please!; Guide Your Mind, Guard Your Heart, Grace Your Tongue; and Stormproof*, which releases on March 1, 2019. Her teaching DVD, *The Rooms of a Woman's Heart*, won the Telly Award, a prestigious

industry award for excellence in religious programming. You can also listen to Carol's "Jolt of Joy" program daily on the Charisma Podcast Network. Connect with Carol or inquire about her speaking to your group at .