

September 4, 2022
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey // Ep. 6: A Jailer Set Free
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Acts 16:22-34 (NRSV)

²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Vs. 22 - 26: Jail

- Faith is a marriage of the ambiguous and the definitive; the unknowable and the certain.

3 Reasons to Worship in Hardship:

1. Ministry to God
2. Ministry to Self
3. Ministry to Others

- **ἐπακροάομαι**: to listen to, with the probable implication of one's own interest.

Vs. 27 - 32: Jesus

- God desires salvation for his people; thus, he won't hesitate to shake the earth if he deems it necessary.

- This is the power of the Gospel - It liberates women down by the river, it casts out the demonic from a slave girl, it enters into the prison and takes the jailer captive.

Vs. 33 - 34: Joy

- For the church, persecution always results in multiplication: "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." - Tertullian

"I want you to know, beloved, that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; 14 and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear." Philippians 1:12–14

- There is a hunger for the Gospel in unexpected places.
- Salvific faith always produces joy.

Small Group Questions

1. How do your circumstances impact your faith?
2. What hardship or persecution have you experienced because of your faith?
3. What factors inhibit you from sharing the Gospel?
4. Is there a specific person or place where God is calling you to be more bold in sharing?
5. Notice the urgency of the newly converted jailer. What danger does complacency hold for the Christian?