

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 12TH, 2026 // BOOK OF ACTS

WORSHIP (ACTS 16:25–29)

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Paul and Silas had every reason to be discouraged, but they chose to worship instead. Even in the middle of pain and uncertainty, they trusted that God was still in control.

- **We all have a choice when life gets hard: we can focus on the trials or fix our eyes on God. Others may see Jesus through our response.**

DIVINE EARTHQUAKE

As Paul and Silas prayed and worshiped, God sent a powerful earthquake that shook the prison, opened every door, and broke every chain. We would expect everyone to run, but that's not what happened.

- The miracle wasn't just that the chains fell off; it was that **Paul and Silas stayed so someone could find salvation.**

FEARFUL JAILER

When the jailer saw the prison doors open, he assumed every prisoner had escaped. Knowing he would likely face death for losing them, he was overcome with fear and prepared to take his own life.

- The jailer thought his life was ending, but **God was about to give him a brand-new life.**

SALVATION (ACTS 16:30–34)

THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION

The jailer rushed in and fell before Paul and Silas, asking, **"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"** After seeing their joy in suffering and their compassion toward him, he knew they had something he desperately needed.

- People often see Jesus through the way we live. **Do our lives point people toward Him or away from Him?**

ONLY JESUS CAN SAVE

The jailer realized he needed saving, and Paul pointed him to the only One who can save. The gospel is simple: we are saved by God's grace through faith in Christ, not by our own efforts. Christ took our place on the cross.

- **When we humble ourselves and place our faith in Jesus, He forgives us, sets us free, and gives us new life.**

THE JAILER'S HOUSEHOLD IS SAVED, TOO

The jailer's decision to follow Jesus impacted his entire household. His faith didn't save his family, but it led them to hear the gospel (Paul and Silas shared it with them), and they responded by trusting Jesus for themselves.

- **A transformed life can become a powerful testimony to those closest to us.**

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

The jailer's life was completely changed by Jesus. He and his family were baptized. The man who once treated Paul and Silas as prisoners now cared for them as brothers in Christ. His actions reflected his new faith.

- **A relationship with Jesus should change the way we live and the way we love others.**

REPUTATION (ACTS 16:35–40)

BACK IN PRISON

After the night's events, Paul and Silas returned to the prison because the jailer didn't have the authority to release them. The next morning, the officials decided to release them, thinking the beating and imprisonment had accomplished their purpose.

- The officials thought they were in control, but **God was directing every detail.**

ROMAN CITIZENSHIP

Paul refused to leave quietly. Paul mentioned the injustice they had endured even though they were Roman citizens. Instead of just leaving, he demanded that the magistrates own their mistake and escort them out of jail.

- To their credit, the authorities owned it and "came to appease them." They also ordered them to leave town because of the mobs.

WHY DID PAUL DO THIS?

Paul's concern wasn't his own comfort; it was the future of the church. By asking the officials to publicly acknowledge their mistake, he helped protect the church's reputation and removed unnecessary obstacles to the gospel.

- **The reputation of the church matters. Let's be known for our love, humility, integrity, and faithfulness.**

CHURCH IN PHILIPPI

When Paul and Silas came to Philippi, there was no church. When they left, there was a family of Believers. **That's the power of the gospel—it changes lives, brings people together, and builds the church.**

- If Jesus can change a businesswoman, a former slave girl, and a Roman jailer, **He can save anyone.**

FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS AND WORSHIP

- **Paul and Silas didn't wait for their circumstances to change before they worshiped.** They trusted that God was still good, still present, and still in control.
- Don't let our circumstances become bigger than our Savior. **The more we fix our eyes on Jesus, the less our circumstances influence us.**

SHARE JESUS WITH EVERYONE

- Paul and Silas never lost sight of their mission. They cared more about one man's salvation than their own freedom.
- Don't become so self-centered that we miss the people God has placed around us.
- Be ready to tell others what Jesus has done in your life. Share the gospel. **The gospel is too good to keep to ourselves.**

OUR CITY IS LOOKING FOR HOPE

- There are still Lydias searching for truth, people in bondage who need freedom, and jailers searching for hope.
- Jesus is still changing lives, bringing broken people together, and building His church.
- **Do our lives point people to Jesus or turn them away?**