

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 11TH–12TH, 2026 // THE BOOK OF ACTS

DELIVERANCE (ACTS 16:25–34)

"GUARD THEM CAREFULLY" (V. 23)

After Paul and Silas were beaten and jailed for delivering a slave girl from demonic possession in Philippi, they sat in a cell around midnight, "praying and singing hymns to God" as the other prisoners listened.

- This scene is ironic and beautiful, reinforcing that **it is a joy to suffer for Jesus** (James 1).

QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE QUIET ANGEL OF CH. 12

Here, God sent a violent earthquake that shook the foundation of the jail, opened all the doors, and loosened every prisoner's chains.

- The guard considered suicide because if the prisoners had escaped, he was as good as dead. Fortunately for him, Paul had persuaded all the prisoners to not run.

MAYBE WE HAVE MISSED THE TRUE POINT?

It seems like God's intent wasn't so much the physical deliverance of Paul and Silas but the spiritual deliverance of the guard and his family.

- **We often miss the bigger implications of what God does.** Physical provision is great, but **the health of our souls is Christ's greatest desire** (1 Timothy 1:15).

OUR ACTIONS MATTER A LOT!

After experiencing the grace and mercy of Paul and Silas, the jailer set them free because they **displayed the love of God by not escaping**.

- **When we demonstrate the attributes of Jesus to others, we gain their trust and open the door for them to know Jesus.**

"SIRS, WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?"

We must consider that Paul said much more than "Believe in the Lord Jesus" because it also says, "And they spoke the word of the Lord to him" and his household.

- The jailer was **humble, recognized he needed to be saved, and responded to the complete gospel**.

SALVATION LEADS TO RECONCILIATION

After the jailer was saved and baptized, he invited Paul and Silas into his home, cleaned their wounds, made them dinner, and rejoiced at their new relationships.

- **Salvation is reconciliation with God.** When we're saved, **we're also led to reconcile with God's creation**, the pinnacle being humans.

PROVISION (ACTS 16:35–40)

"WHEN DAYLIGHT CAME..."

Though so much had happened the night before, the following day was remarkably in order. The authorities only intended to keep Paul and Silas in jail overnight, and though there was an earthquake, no prisoners had escaped. So, the magistrates gave orders to let the men "go in peace."

PAUL DIDN'T LET IT GO SO EASILY

Paul brought up 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 CHOOSE THIS BATTLE?

Paul wasn't prideful or entitled. He understood that **the local church has to have a good reputation with the governing authorities in order to be a good witness to the city**.

- This doesn't mean that we compromise our beliefs or bow to evil empires. It does mean we are good citizens who honor God.

A TOUGH NEEDLE TO THREAD

We often grapple with the balance of faith and civic duty. Though no human kingdom completely follows the principles of God, we are told to **honor the government (Romans 13; 1 Peter 2) without idolizing it or compromising our beliefs for human laws or political correctness**.

MAKING ONE MORE TRIP TO LYDIA'S HOUSE

After the magistrates escorted them out and warned them to leave town for their safety, Paul and Silas went back to encourage the church in Lydia's house.

- Philippians tells us that the church in Lydia's home became a strong group that displayed the power and joy of the Spirit.

THE MAIN POINT IS DELIVERANCE

- **More than anything else, Christ came to save our souls. Salvation is deliverance** from the oppression of evil, our destructive nature, and the ramifications of sin.
- Salvation is available to anyone but only received through **humility, recognition of our depravity, and a response to the gospel**.

SALVATION LEADS TO RECONCILIATION

- Salvation is also reconciliation with our Creator. Faith in Jesus not only saves us; it puts us in good standing with the God we have severely wronged through sin.
- **Reconciling with God leads us to reconcile with others.** The Spirit gives us wisdom and the ability to properly love others.

DISPLAYING CHRIST LEADS OTHERS TO HIM

- When we display the Fruit of the Spirit and the principles of the Word, we show people that we care for them, and it opens the door for God to work in their lives.
- **As Christians, we have an enormous responsibility to be the salt and light of the world** (Matthew 5)!

FAITHFULNESS AND PROVISION

- When we put Jesus first, trust Him, and live in obedience to His Word, **He provides everything we need "according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus"** (Philippians 4:19).
- This means God provides what He wants when He wants for His glory. **We are to simply obey and believe He knows best.**

AN INVENTORY

- Do we truly believe that God not only saves us but delivers us from the bondage of sin, evil, and the desires of our flesh?
- Do we desire not only to avoid Hell but to be reconciled and in relationship with God? If saved, has our salvation inspired us to reconcile with those around us?
- Do we demonstrate God's Kingdom? Are we beacons of **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control**? If not, do we have the right to complain about a dark world?
- **How can we produce this fruit if we never tend to our spiritual soil?**
- Do we truly believe God provides everything we need? **If we don't trust in His provision, we are the problem and must evaluate our faith, obedience, and stewardship.**
- Are His desires satisfactory to us? If not, maybe we don't know our Father's love and nature as well as we should.
- *"For I will proclaim the Lord's name. Declare the greatness of our God! The Rock—His work is perfect; all His ways are just. A faithful God, without bias, He is righteous and true."* (Deuteronomy 32:3–4)