

# ACTS: Praising in Prison

*Acts 16:25-40*

## **Praising in Prison (v. 25-27)**

- At midnight Paul & Silas beginning singing praise to God even while imprisoned
  - This demonstrates true joy in every circumstance (Phil. 4:4)
  - As a result, their fellow prisoners are listening to a praise service exalting the excellencies of the one true God, whose word alone can show the way of salvation
- God sends an earthquake which miraculously opens all the cells and loosens the chains
  - Just like God did for the Apostles (Acts 5:19ff) & Peter (Acts 12:5-19)
- When the jailer realizes what has happened, he supposes that everyone has escaped
  - He plans to kill himself rather than face the cruelties of Roman justice

## **A Jailer Set Free (v. 28-34)**

- Paul informs the jailer that they have not tried to escape
- Once the jailer understands the miracle that has occurred and connects it with Paul & Silas, he asks about the salvation that they were singing about
  - Paul makes clear what is needed: “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” (v. 31)
- After further explanation from Paul, the jailer and his whole household put their faith in Jesus
  - They are baptized
  - He cleans up Paul & Silas
  - He invites them into his home, which was probably connected to the jail
    - And he treats them like honored guests
- The miracle was not meant to set the Apostles free, but rather to set the jailer and his family free

## **Humbling the Proud (v. 35-40)**

- The next day, the city magistrates decide to release the Apostles
  - Probably preferring to get them out of town than continuing to deal with them
- Paul insists that they come do it themselves
  - Citing that both he and Silas are Roman citizens and have been wrongly treated
- The magistrates grow fearful because of the Apostle’s citizenship & agree to escort them out
  - It was akin to a public apology
- They ask them to leave town
  - Which they do after visiting with Lydia and the newly formed Church

## **So What?**

- Paul & Silas demonstrated joy in the midst of suffering
  - Do we do the same?
- God works miracles to draw people to Himself
  - Do we trust Him to still do so?

**Meditation Verse:** *Philippians 4:4*