

CP— 10/15/23

Acts 16:25–40 — The Jailhouse Rocked

Sermon Outline

1. The Response to Persecution (16:25–26)

- a. Paul and Silas responded in prayer and praise.
 - *They were there because of obedience.
- b. The prisoners responded with attention and listening.
- c. The Lord responded with an earthquake.

2. The Jailer's Conversion (16:27–34)

- a. He awoke in fear, guilt, and judgement.
- b. He heard and believed the gospel of Christ's grace.
- c. He showed repentance and a changed heart.
 - *He washed Paul and Silas' wounds.
 - *He was baptized.
 - *He showed hospitality.
 - *He experienced the joy of salvation.

3. The Wisdom in Planting the Philippian Church (16:35–40)

- a. Paul's wisdom on knowing when to voice his rights
- b. Paul's wisdom in gaining protection for the new church
- c. Paul's wisdom in (probably) leaving Luke behind for the new believers
 - *"We" in 16:16, not picked up again until 20:5–6, Luke at Philippi

Application:

- 1. Our response to circumstances reveals our view of God. Our situations should drive us to prayer and praise.
- 2. We should be aware of how God providentially uses situations to put us in places to share the gospel.
- 3. We must show wisdom in our actions for the reputations of the gospel and the church in our city.

Small Group Discussion

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and Bible passage? What stood out to you?
2. Discuss the different responses in the passage (Paul/Silas, the prisoners, the Lord). How was the Lord's response a picture of what had already occurred in the chapter? (For example: open doors and broken chains)
3. What was the jailer about to do to himself and why? Discuss how we as believers can help those in depression and despair.
4. What was the importance Paul and Silas further explaining the gospel in 16:32 after answering the jailer's question in 16:31? How should Acts 16:32 affect our evangelism? In what ways did the jailer show his repentance and faith?
5. Discuss the different ways Paul showed wisdom in 16:35–40. Why did he exercise his rights as a Roman citizen? If time permits, discuss the reasons why God directed the missionary team as he did in Acts 16.