

6.16.2024

## Heroic Acts of Unsung Heroes:

# Silas

*“Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, men who were leaders among the believers.” Acts 15:22 (NIV)*

*“They [Paul and Barnabas] had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company... Paul chose Silas and left... went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.” Acts 15:39-41 (NIV)*

*“Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, ‘These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.’ She kept this up for many days. Finally, Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, ‘In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!’ At that moment the spirit left her.” Acts 16:16-18 (NIV)*

*“About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, ‘Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!’” Acts 16:25-28 (NIV)*

*“...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved’ . . . The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God – he and his whole family.” Acts 16:30-31,34 (NIV)*

# Lessons from the Life of Silas

## 1. **Choose** your people wisely.

*“One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”*

*Proverbs 18:24 (NIV)*

*“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)*

## 2. **Praise** God in your Pain.

*“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV)*

## 3. **Stand**, even when it’s hard.

*“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can **take your stand** against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

*Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand your ground**, and after you have done everything, to stand.” Ephesians 6:10-13 (NIV)*

## 4. **Remember**, the world is watching.

*“Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us...” Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)*

## 5. **Know** that God is for you.

*“The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in His love He will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.” Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)*

*“If God is for us, who can be against us?” Romans 8:31b (NIV)*

## Keep the Conversation Going...

### **READ ACTS 15:22-16:34**

- What sticks out to you upon your reading?
- Why were Paul and Silas arrested?
- Who was traveling with them at this point in their journey?
- Who has your back the way Silas had Paul's?
- What issues are you willing to stand up for the way that Silas stood for the gospel?
- How do you think Paul and Silas's worship, and the subsequent earthquake impacted the lives of the other prisoners?
- What life is hard how do you tend to respond?
- Have you had a time where you remember consciously praising God in your pain? What was happening?
- How has your faith been impacted when you see others handle difficulties by turning to God?
- The next time life is hard what would Silas encourage us to do?

### **SO WHAT**

- The next time life is hard what would Silas encourage us to do?