

Acts 16:19-40
Cross Brand C3:16
9.2.26

Sources: John MacAuthor / Jesse Johnson

Isaiah 55:8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the LORD.

I. The gospel evokes persecution

When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²⁰They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar ²¹by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”

²²The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. ²³After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

***It will bring about false accusations**

Mark 5:16-17¹⁶Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. ¹⁷Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

***It will bring about fierce punishment**

2 Corinthians 11:25²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea,

***It will get here sooner than later**

II. The correct response to persecution

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

***They prayed and sang.**

Phil 4:4 ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

I Thes 5:16 Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

***They treated others with respect and love**

III. The uncomfortable situations often promote spiritual progress

³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴ 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 household.

***God used a natural disaster for the apostles**

***God used incarceration for the benefit of the jailor.**

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who^[a] have been called according to his purpose.

Gen 45:5-8/ 50:20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

IV. The gospel brings about change

***The right heart preceded change**

Luke 18:18-23 A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”¹⁹ “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’¹ “All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said. ²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”²³ When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy.

***The right motivation to receive the gospel**

***The right formula for the gospel**

***The right results of the receiving the gospel**

V. The believers must exercise their civil rights

³⁵ When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: “Release those men.” ³⁶ The jailer told Paul, “The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace.”

³⁷ But Paul said to the officers: “They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out.”

³⁸ The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. ³⁹ They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city. ⁴⁰ After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.

***Paul held the leaders accountable**

***We can hold leaders accountable**