

## Day 28: The Battle ~ Worship Wins the War

One of my favorite Bible stories on praise and worship is the story of Paul and Silas in prison. They are in chains, and it is the midnight hour. Have you ever had a midnight hour when everything seemed dark and impossible? I know I have. What did they do? Did Paul and Silas complain about their plight or ask God “why is this happening?” No, they began to praise and worship the Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

Acts 16:22- tells the result of their situation, “The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. <sup>24</sup> When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. <sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> 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.”

Bondage are broken with worship. Strongholds are released with worship. Depression lifts with worship. Fear is stripped of power with worship. Worship wins the war!

When King Jehoshaphat was surrounded by powerful armies in 2 Chronicles 20, we fasted, prayed, and sought the Lord. The Lord answered and said to be still and that the battle was the Lord’s. The next morning, they were to go out and face the enemy. We pick up the story with verses 20:21-22, “After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: ‘Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever.’ <sup>22</sup> As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.” As they sang and worshipped, God moved. When the praises go up, the blessings come down.

Worship works in my life, and I know it will work in yours. Worship helps us take the focus off ourselves and place it right back on God. Psalm 131, “My heart is not proud, LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. <sup>2</sup> But I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content. <sup>3</sup> Israel, put your hope in the LORD both now and forevermore.” Let us quiet ourselves in worship and put our hope in Jesus.

## Day 28 Worksheet

Write what you think it was like for Paul and Silas in prison for preaching the Gospel. Why could they pray and worship God?

---

---

---

---

---

Read the story in 2 Chronicles 20 of King Jehoshaphat. Does this story speak to your heart? Have you ever felt surrounded by the enemy and not known what to do?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

How can you calm yourself through worship and not be concerned with matters too great for you?

---

---

---

---

---

Write two action steps that can help remind you worship the Lord to win the war.

---

---

---

---

---