

From the Pastor's Desk.....

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Acts 16:25 NKJV

Hello family,

Have you ever noticed how easy it is to respond poorly to circumstances that we find ourselves in? You know, those types of things that we don't necessarily want to be experiencing, those things that we don't instantly recognize why God has us where we are.

In [Acts 16:20-24](#) we find Paul and Silas experiencing false accusations, a mob that wished them extreme harm, and the local magistrates having them beaten with rods.

They were even put in prison, the inner prison with their feet in the stocks ([Acts 16:24](#)).

At this point Paul and Silas could have very easily had a huge pity party. They could have questioned God and His love for them. They could have gotten angry at God and questioned His Lordship, His authority over them. They could have evaluated what they had done to cause all this and as a result vowed to never do that again. Instead we read in verse [25](#) that at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God.

They chose to recognize God's perfect design and plan and as a result, they recognized the part that He had appointed them to be participants in. They were "all in" for the Lord and as a result of their commitment they weren't thinking of themselves when God used a great earthquake to open the jail doors and loose everyone's chains. They didn't immediately make their way to the nearest point of escape, but instead stayed and prevented the jailer from killing himself. They were ready when he asked them what he must do to be saved. The jailer must have been listening to Paul and Silas' prayers and the hymns they were singing to God, (instead of grumbling and whining).

As a result of Paul and Silas recognizing God's perfect plan and timing they were able to share the Gospel and be blessed by seeing God save a man and his household. They were actively living for the Lord, serving Him, and were able, by His grace, to recognize His working in all their circumstances/opportunities.

Let's make sure that we are humbly committed to the Lord Jesus Christ, recognizing His Lordship, His authority in all areas of our lives, in all circumstances/opportunities so that God can use us and grow us up in Him. Let's make sure that we are "all in", seeking His will, wanting to be participants in His perfect plan and timing, recognizing His complete authority in our lives and living accordingly. Let's make sure to share what we've learned and are learning with others as God allows and directs so that others can also learn and be encouraged.

In Christ's love, Pastor Dave Wolff