

Week 5: A God who Rescues

Read Acts 16:25-34

1. When was a time when you witnessed someone's clear demonstration of joy in Christ in the midst of suffering? How did that impact you?

2. The jailer's situation, and the fact that he assumed the prisoners had escaped, lead him to feel ashamed to the point of despair. But what is interesting is that when he finds out that when his problem goes away—the prisoners hadn't escaped after all—he is driven to ask about how he might be saved.

a. Why do you think that this was his response? Why ask Paul about salvation after his "problem" seemed to be solved?

b. Can you relate? Have you ever been in a situation where even after the external circumstances that were challenging are resolved, you were still filled with fear and despair?

1) When was it and what was going on?

2) Why do you think you continued to feel that way?

2) How did you finally find freedom from the despair or fear in that situation?

3. The jailer brings Paul and Silas into his home. There he responds to the gospel with faith, kindness, hospitality, obedience (baptism) and joy.

a. Where is the fruit of the gospel most evident in your own home? What impact has it made or is it currently making on your family?

b. Where do you and your family need to grow in your response to the gospel?

4. This passage begins with Paul and Silas' example of joy in suffering being a clear witness to the other prisoners. It ends with the jailer and his family rejoicing because of their newfound faith and freedom in Christ.

a. What does the joy of the Lord look like in your life now? Where is it most present and where is it most absent?