Paul's Prison Story

Justin Mock · Acts 16:24–34

INTRODUCTION

- Hearing stories from the past, especially stories from long ago, can be riveting.
- What if we could sit at Paul's feet and listen to him tell us stories about his life. How incredible would that be.
- As we think about this story, obviously there are lessons that we can learn.

1 We Need to Impact People Where We Are

Philippians 1:12–14; Acts 17:5–6

- The first lesson, the first point I want to make this morning, is that we need to impact people where we are.
- Sometimes we decide who we're going to share the gospel with based on whether or not we think they'll be receptive.
- I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel.
- The point here is really that we need to go to those who are spiritually sick.
- The streets of heaven are not just going to be filled with people who you have decided are good enough to hear the truth.
- They didn't invite him to church. They studied with him right there where he was.

2 We Need to Be Looking for Opportunities

Acts 16:25–30; Acts 2; Acts 8

- The reality is that the truth of God's word shakes people up. It impacts their lives.
- God shook more than just the prison that day. God shook the jailer spiritually.
- He asked Paul and Silas a question based on how they were living their lives.
- There are opportunities all around us. Because we live in an imperfect world where at some point in your life and the lives of everyone you know, something is going to go wrong.
- Because Paul was looking for opportunities, he saw it. We need to be looking for opportunities. And we need to be taking advantage of them when we see them.

3 We Need to Truly Be Who We Are

Mark 12:30; Matthew 5:13

- If you are a child of God, you cannot just be a child of God when you're here.
- Your attendance at a geographic location does not make you a faithful child of God.
- Living the life of a Christian, being the light to the world outside of this building is an example of a faithful child of God.

- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.
- Being a faithful child of God is something that we do every day, no matter where we are. And part of that is teaching people where they are.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you who you ought to be? When you consider your life in relation to the New Testament and who God asks you to be outside of this building in difficult circumstances and easy circumstances, are you who God says you ought to be?

MY NOTES