

the remotest part of the earth

#19, songs in the night – Acts 16:25-40

¹The rough words were spoken: *Go* ²*lictors: strip off their garments:* let them be scourged. The order was promptly obeyed, and the heavy blows descended. It is happy for us that few modern countries know, by example of a similar punishment, what the severity of a Roman scourging was. The Apostles received ‘many stripes;’ and when they were consigned to prison, bleeding and faint from the rod, the jailer received a strict injunction ‘to keep them safe.’ . . . Not content with placing the Apostles among such other offenders against the law as it were in custody at Philippi, he ‘thrust them into the inner prison,’ and then forced their limbs, lacerated as they were, bleeding from the rod, into a painful and constrained posture, by means of an instrument employed to confine and torture the bodies of the worst malefactors.

Ps 42:5-8, Why are you in despair, O my soul, and why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him for the help of His presence.

O my God, my soul is in despair within me; therefore I remember You from the land of the Jordan And the peaks of Hermon, from Mount Mizar. Deep calls to deep at the sound of Your waterfalls; all Your breakers and Your waves have rolled over me.

The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime; and His song will be with me in the night, A prayer to the God of my life.

25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

26 and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened.

[1.] v:25, the prisoners were listening, What would the prisoners think when they heard this singing?

[2.] v:25 again, singing hymns of praise to God, Conceivably Paul and Silas sang Psalm 42. From v:5-8, jot down some truths, about God, that would comfort them.

[3.] v:26, everyone’s chains were unfastened, What would be the prisoners expected reflex action?

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Since we are speaking of shaking things! Heb 12:26-29, And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN." 27 This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

[4.] Heb 12:27, the removing of those things which can be shaken, **Why or why doesn't this include the new creation as mentioned in II Cor 5:17?**

[5.] v:28, What will remain after this shaking (v:28)?

[6.] question [5.] Is this the present one or a future one?

[7.] From v:28 again, how do born-again Christians show their gratitude?

[8.] v:28 again, List the born-again Christians that are exempt from "acceptable service".

[9.] Acts 16:27, was about to kill himself, **What usually happened to a jailer whose charges had escaped?**

Back to Acts 16:27, When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

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28 But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!"

Acts 16:29, And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

31 They said, " Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.

33 And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household. 34 And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.

35 Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their policemen, saying, "Release those men."

[10.] v:28, Paul cried out, **What miracle, that is against human nature, does this verse describe?**

[11.] v:29-30, what must I do to be saved? **Good grief! The prison is in shambles and all the prisoners should have been dead or gone. But here they are, in one tidy little group. This would be a feather in the jailer's cap. Why would he ever interested in salvation?**

[12.] v:31-32, they spoke the word of the Lord to him, **If you were with Paul and Silas, what portion of the Old Testament and teachings of Christ would you be speaking?**

[13.] v:31-32 again, they spoke the word of the Lord to him, **What are your thoughts about any one who says they have been saved for many years yet still have little interest in scripture?**

[14.] v:33-34, that very hour, **How did the jailer show that Christ was truly Lord of his life?**

[15.] v:35, Release those men. **Describe the level of confinement that all of the prisoners were now under.**

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36 And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Therefore come out now and go in peace."

37 But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us in public without trial, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out."

[16.] v:36, come out now and go in peace. Describe how the jailer, though a new Christian, was in obedience to Romans 13:1.

[17.] v:37, But Paul said to them, Paul made four accusations against the chief magistrates. What were they?

Romans, To inflict corporal punishment on a Roman citizen was a serious crime, and made more so since Paul and Silas did not receive a trial. As a result the magistrates faced the possibility of being removed from office, and having Philippi's privileges as a Roman colony revoked.

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38 The policemen reported these words to the chief magistrates. They were afraid when they heard that they were Romans,

39 and they came and appealed to them, and when they had brought them out, they kept begging them to leave the city.

[18.] v:37 again, Just for fun now! Jot down why, you think, Paul didn't let on that they were Romans yesterday when this all started?

[19.] v:38, They were afraid, We know why the magistrates were afraid. So, from Matt 25:31-46, why is it not a good idea to mess with the "brothers of Christ"?

[20.] v:39, and they came, How did the magistrates comply with Paul's request from v:37?

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40 They went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia, and when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

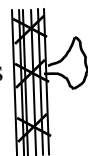
[21.] v:39 again, they kept begging them, It doesn't seem to be too friendly so, why did the magistrates want Paul and Silas to leave the city?

[22.] v:40, they encouraged them, Write down what you think the words of encouragement were?

[23.] v:40 again, If we, as Christians, bear some persecution, how can it be an encouragement to other Christians?

¹Conybeare, W.J., and Howson, J.S., THE LIFE AND EPISTLES of ST. PAUL

²(in ancient Rome) an officer attending the consul or other magistrates, bearing the fasces and executing sentences on offenders.



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NOTES