



HOW THE GOSPEL GOT OUT

Paul & Silas in Philippi (Acts 16:11-40)

“The combination of religion, money and politics is asking for trouble, and Paul and Silas got it. Stripped, flogged and jailed, they discovered what happens to those who challenge the powers of the world with the power of the Name of Jesus.”

(N T Wright)

A New Mission: The Same Strategy

- Paul goes where the “God-Fearers” pray
- No established Synagogue
- Meets Lydia, from Thyatira (Remember our Revelation series??)

Clash of Kingdoms

- Announcement by evil spirit – skewed truth
- Evil spiritual powers stirred up by gospel ministry
- “Our struggle is not against flesh and blood ...” (Eph 6:12)
- The Name of Jesus
- Not just spiritual forces, but money, religion and politics – systemic evil

In Prison

- How did we get in this mess?
- When there’s no way out – Worship!
- Worship brings the eternal presence of God into the temporal reality of our situation!
- Earthquake, doors open, chains off – what now???



The Philippian Guard's Mess

- A career ending shock
- An unexpected response

Salvation

- "What must I do to be saved?" is not a request for the explanation of the theories of the atonement or the doctrine of justification by faith!
- The big question for Biblical Interpretation: _____
- Jesus' view of Salvation and the Kingdom
- So, perhaps a better translation is: _____

A Kingdom Picture

- F _____
- W _____
- P _____

Questions for Discussion and Further Reflection

1. Was there a particular part of the sermon that grabbed your attention? What was it? Why was it significant to you?
2. Have you ever seen manifestations of evil? What did it look like? How was it dealt with? How did you feel?
3. If our "struggle is against principalities and powers," how prepared are you to deal with that battle?
4. How does worship bring the presence of God into our situations? How do you rate yourself as a worshipper?
5. Before this sermon, how did you understand the concept of SALVATION? Has anything changed in your thinking? How might you live differently with a different understanding of salvation?
6. What are the "messes of your life" that you need Jesus to take control of?
7. How can you "Party at Midnight" in the difficult situations? Where is God asking you to take the party to?
8. Spend time praying and worshipping. Ask God to show you where he is sending you!