

October 22, 2023
Acts 16:25-34
“When It Seems Darkest . . ., Sing!”

The jailor drew his sword ready to kill himself due to the loss of his prisoners as was the custom of the day. Two things, (1) Paul didn't think about himself and his new found freedom; he saw the distress the jailor was under that was leading to his imminent death by suicide. (2) Paul had compassion on him and shouted out, don't do it! We are all right here. Paul's focus was not on escape, it was on souls. In His sovereignty God had led them there and he didn't want to miss what God had for them. Selflessness!

Our key passage today is **verse 31**, the simple message, all needed for justification is faith in Jesus. No works, only believe. Each member of his household had to believe for him/her self, this was not a package deal. God has no grandchildren!

Praising God did not depend on circumstances for Paul and Silas. Even in this terrible predicament they were found rejoicing, rejoicing in what? They considered their circumstances in light of the great God they served and this resulted in joy. Got joy?

This old jailor had immediate spiritual fruit, he loved on his prisoners, cared for their needs and wounds, and was obedient in baptism. Remember too that Lydia had immediately shown hospitality to the missionaries. Got spiritual fruit?

SUICIDE is always lurking around. But, sometimes it runs in very strong spells because it is being romanticized by some vain philosophy such as the one by the “stoics” which had flourished in this same region some 100 years prior to this account. The jailor was likely influenced by the likes of a guy named Brutus, check out his story sometime. This vain philosophy today is called, “Neostoicism.” No new thing under the sun, read **Ecclesiastes 1:9** and all of **chapter 3**. Is the society we now live in influencing you to accept or adhere to non-biblical actions or thoughts? Draw near to God!

Application:

Suicide in it's rawest form is self-murder. Today there is an epidemic of young people taking their own lives, see something, hear something, say something. People need the Lord, people need men and women of faith to come alongside of them in the good times and the bad. The gospel is the answer, in our passage today we see that imprisonment, beatings, or even the threat of death were no deterrent to Paul and company when it came to sharing the good news. Make an effort to share your faith with someone this week and invite friends to come to church with you next Sunday! Let's be His hands and feet as we carry the good news to the lost.