

## Road Trip (Part 6)

Detained in Philippi – Worship in the Midnight Hour

*Acts 20:24 -But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy,...*

Text: Acts 16:16–40

**Introduction:** Life’s journey rarely goes as planned—sometimes God redirects us through hardship. Paul and Silas’ story in Philippi reminds us obedience doesn’t always bring ease.

“God permits trials not to punish, but to accomplish His purpose.” (Wiersbe).

### I. **The trouble before the chains:** (Acts 16:16–24)

#### A. **A growing ministry draws opposition**

1. A slave girl possessed by a spirit of divination follows Paul and Silas, shouting truth from a demonic source.
2. Paul commands the spirit to leave in Jesus’ name (vv.16–18).  
*Satan will use partial truth to confuse and hinder the gospel.*

#### B. **The backlash hits hard**

1. The girl’s owners lose income, stir false charges, and...
2. Paul and Silas are beaten and imprisoned (vv.19–24).

*Obedience may bring opposition, not applause. (Jn 15:20; 2 Tim. 3:12; Jn 16:33)*  
Trust Jesus in trials.

### II. **Worship in the midnight hour:** (Acts 16:25)

#### A. **The surprising sound in the darkness**

1. At midnight, Paul and Silas pray and sing despite suffering and chains.
2. *Max Lucado* calls this “God’s music box wound up in the midnight hour.”

#### B. **The power of praise in trial**

1. Praise lifts your focus from pain to the Lord’s presence (Psalm 22:3).
2. Praise invites God’s presence in the darkness (Psalm 22:3).
3. Praise tells the world your God is worth trusting even here. (Hab. 3:17–18)
4. Praise prepares the ground for God to work. (That is not a minor detail Luke gives us here, “*the other prisoners were listening...*”)

*Your prison may be unseen—anxiety, grief, fear. Praise God there. (Phil 4:4)*

### III. **God moves when His people praise:** (Acts 16:26–34)

#### A. **A supernatural jailbreak**

1. Earthquake breaks chains and opens doors (v.26).  
*MacArthur notes, “God is never bound by the bars that bind His people.”*
2. Paul and Silas stay—the mission is bigger than escape.

#### B. **A jailer’s rescue**

1. Jailer tries to kill himself; Paul stops him (vv.27–29).
2. Jailer asks, “What must I do to be saved?” (v.30).
3. Paul’s answer: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ...” (v.31).
  - a. To be saved – one must believe Jesus is who He claimed to be (Jn. 20:31) and ...
    - Believe in what He did – His death, burial and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:3, 4; Rom. 1:16)
4. Jailer and family believed and were baptized, rejoiced (vv.33–34).  
**It’s important to note:** The phrase “*and thy house*” does not mean that the faith of the jailer would automatically bring salvation to his family. Each sinner must trust and believe upon Christ personally in order to be born again, for we cannot be saved “by proxy.” (Acts 4:12)

*Your praise may be a testimony to someone watching in the dark.*

### IV. **The mission marches on:** (Acts 16:35–40)

#### A. **God’s people leave with dignity**

1. Magistrates realize they erred.
2. Paul demands public apology to protect church (vv.35–39).

#### B. **Encouragement before departure**

1. Paul and Silas visit Lydia and believers, encourage, then move on (v.40).  
*Your trial is temporary—God’s work continues beyond it. (Rom. 8:28)*

### **Conclusion:** Turning your prison into a platform

1. Paul & Silas chose worship, not despair; trial birthed salvation, encouragement, and glory to God.
2. *Galatians 6:9* — “Let us not grow weary... for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”
3. *Your next step:* Identify your “Philippi.” Worship in your hardship; trust God’s timing; look for who’s listening in the dark.

*“Lord, teach us to worship in the midnight hour. Use our praise as a platform for Your glory.”*