

## **3rd Wednesday Evangelism Series: The Unstoppable Power of God (part 1)**

### **All The Prison Doors Flew Open! Acts 16:13-40**

Why the topic of evangelism/ sharing your faith with others?

The gospel is breaking into the lives of individuals from every social standing, economic background, gender and race....

### **1. The gospel is the power of God to open hearts (16:13-15)**

Then we're told something that should be so encouraging to us, "*The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.*"

Salvation is the Lord's work, not ours!

**Romans 1:16-17; Colossians 1:13-14**

### **2. The gospel is the power of God *that opens prison doors of demonic bondage* (16:16-22)**

#### **A clear deliverance takes place**

It shows the power of God over any and all demonic bondage, influence, oppression or possession.

After this deliverance, we can only assume Paul spoke the truth of the gospel to this girl.

Demonic persuasion/ influence in our day is all around us

### **3. The gospel is the power of God *that opens mouths to sing praise in the darkest of hours* (16:23-25)**

There's a temptation to distance ourselves from these events.  
When I read the Bible I try to enter the story.

One author writes, "*they resorted to a time-tested method of responding to suffering...singing helps us focus on the glorious eternal realities that may be clouded by the gloomy temporal realities. It helps us especially because, when we cannot produce words of our own, we can use words of others....the objective truths we get from **biblical songs** challenge our subjective feelings; **our theology addresses our experience.**"*

IS the revelation of God the Father's glory (splendor and brilliance and worth and majesty) in the person of Christ Jesus your passion?

God is unrivaled in majesty, unlimited in power and unaffected by anything outside himself...**that's** why our joy can be unaffected joy. (Psalm 16 Joy)

### **They were singing to God alone but not for God alone.**

What we need to do *now* is saturate our hearts and minds in the truth of God's Word so that *when* the trials come, *when* the midnight hour is upon us - we'll sing and we'll pray.

**You and I have an audience**

Whether we like it or not.

*"Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out (hold on to) the word of life..."*

### **4. The gospel is the power of God to open the prison door of sin and unbelief (16:26-34)**

The irony is that the one who held Paul and Silas as prisoners was imprisoned himself. He needed a deliverance from the cell of unbelief.

This was the message they had lived for so with joy they embraced the opportunity at once!

Two reasons why we don't evangelize:

- 1.) FEAR
- 2.) UNDISCIPLINED and UNMOVED by the Gospel

### **Colossians 4:4-6**

#### **The irony continues**

As they were washed of their wounds - *he* was washed of his sins!

### **5. Evidence that nothing and no one can close the door on the gospel (16:35-40)**

Before they left the city in obedience to the officials they first had some **encouraging** to do!

The church grew and became a significant partner of Paul's for the advance of the gospel!

*Os Guinness: "By the preaching of the Gospel, we're not talking about an individualistic, narrow, subjective, (pietistic) thing. The Gospel affects the heart and the whole of life. It touches a heart, changes a family, changes a neighborhood, changes a workplace and eventually touches the whole of life as a salt and light penetrating influence. **There is nothing more powerful for taking on evil and unbelief than the Gospel itself.**"*

That was true in the city of Philippi and it's true for the city of St. Petersburg.