



Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions

Topic: *I Saw The Chains Fall!*

Text: Acts 16:16-40

Service Date: July 28, 2024

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

Getting Started

- Have you ever experienced an earthquake, or seen the destruction caused by an earthquake (or another kind of natural disaster) firsthand?
- Do you enjoy watching true crime documentaries or shows? Why or why not?

Sermon Discussion

- 1 Chronicles 10:13 reads, "(King) Saul died because he was unfaithful to the Lord; he did not keep the word of the Lord and even consulted a medium for guidance, and did not inquire of the Lord." When we think about how popular divining and mystic practices still are in our culture, what do we need to do as Christian to ensure we, and others, do not fall into this demonic trap?
- Paul and Silas were persecuted by the people of Philippi for their preaching and for performing God's will. Have you ever experienced any level of persecution in your life due to being/acting like a Christian?
- As mentioned, both Paul and Silas endured physical suffering and injustice. How can we cultivate perseverance and endurance in our own lives, especially in the face of our current culture?
- If Paul and Silas were singing praises to God after being beaten and thrown in the deepest depths of prison, how can we not sing praises to God during the difficult times we experience? Are there any practical ways we can keep the same mindset Paul and Silas possessed?

- Have prayer and worship ever been a source of strength and comfort in times of adversity or hardship in your life?
- Paul and Aaron mentioned in the sermon that the earthquake shaking the foundations of the prison, bringing down the prison doors, and loosing the shackles to free Paul and Silas is a visceral picture of how God freed us spiritually from sin. How does this deepen both our understanding of our own sin and the amazing grace, mercy, and power of God?
- Because Paul and Silas stayed in the prison, even when they were freed, they were able to save the life of the jailer and bring him and his household to a saving knowledge of Christ. In doing this, they used a seemingly dark time for good. How can we today communicate the difficult times and trials we have had in our lives to show Christ to unbelievers?
- How can we better support and encourage fellow believers who may be facing challenges or strongholds in their own faith journey?
- How did Paul and Silas demonstrate their identity as followers of Christ in this passage, even with an entire town in opposition to them?

Have you or someone in your group experienced a Story of Life Change?

We'd love to hear about it! In fact, one of Tri-Village's values is "Stories of Life Change". Visit tri-village.org/yourstory and share how God worked.