

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **September 6, 2020** sermon, "A Great Earthquake." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 16:25-40) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

WHEN GOD INTERRUPTS THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE, NOTE . . .

1. The profound questions unbelievers might be asking (25-30)
 - a. Worship leads to witness.
 - i. When restricted, Paul and Silas do not emphasize the absence of rights.
 - ii. They emphasize the presence of responsibilities. And the sing to their Lord.
 - iii. The earthquake was not meant to free them, but give opportunity to serve their captors.
 - b. Philippian Jailor's response: "What must I do to be saved?"
2. The essential answers believers should be providing (31-34)
 - a. A clear and succinct presentation of the Gospel.
 - i. Believe that Jesus alone is the anointed Messiah from God. He is God.
 - ii. Believe that Jesus alone has done the work to reconcile sinners to God.
 - b. Note the desire for teaching and baptism that came from the Philippian Jailor.
3. The strategies God might be using (35-40)
 - a. Paul and Silas now make it known that they are Roman Citizens.
 - i. The magistrates did not follow legal process prior to beating them.
 - ii. It is the magistrates who stand in violation of Roman law.
 - b. They insist upon a public release after having suffered a public beating.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Worship in the midst of suffering and mistreatment is a loud and clear witness for our Lord. How does this relate to Christians enduring COVID restrictions? Do you emphasize the greatness of God? Do you speak of his goodness? Is his praise on your lips? Are you willing to endure personal limitations (irritations) in order to make much of Jesus?
2. Based on #1, above: God used imprisonment, the loss of rights and even beating as the means to establish and grow the church in Philippi. The Philippian Jailor finally came right out and asked, "What must I do to be saved?" Who has God brought into your life recently? What questions are they asking? How are those questions different from previous generations?
3. Based on #2, above: We don't have to have nuanced words which take into account every possible background situation. We need to state the truth about Jesus very clearly: "rely upon Jesus about everything he said" and "rely upon everything Jesus did." He is the Messiah and he accomplished life, death and resurrection on behalf of all who trust him. Can you present Jesus clearly? Succinctly? Are you ready to do it today? How can we pray for you?
4. Based on #3, above: Enduring mistreatment may be the means for evangelism—if we are faithful. Discuss.