

16 Acts 16:16-34 | What must I do to be saved?

“I’m sure I’d be a better witness if my life was a little less chaotic”. Circumstances couldn’t have been more unfavourable for Paul and Silas:

- they were called to communicate, yet their message had been misunderstood, deliberately twisted and rejected (vv.19-21).
- they were called to be itinerant evangelists, yet they were imprisoned and rendered immobile (vv.22-24).
- they were called to serve the Living God, yet it seemed that God had abandoned them.

However, from this unlikely series of events, and through the apostles’ faithfulness, a wonderful grace emerges.

- in spite of the injustice, they **pray**;
- in spite of the potential mockery of other angry prisoners, they **praise**;
- in spite of many unanswered questions about God’s purposes, they **worship**.
- and then, in the aftermath of utter chaos, when they could have served their own interests by escaping the situation, they **witness**.

The jailor’s famous question, “What must I do to be saved?” may simply have been a query about saving his job (and his skin!), just as people may share with us their anxiety about family, work or financial matters from which they wish to “be saved”. Nevertheless, Paul and Silas seized the day and answered his question on an altogether larger scale: one with eternal consequences. From a catalogue of personal catastrophes, a man and his family discovered “the way to be saved” (vv.17, 31).

Lord, even when the circumstances of my life are unfavourable, give me opportunities to share the way of salvation - and help me to grasp them!