

Acts: The Gospel Gone Viral
Lesson 34 “The Power of Worship”

I. We have been studying through *Acts* and how the gospel went viral through various revivals in the first century. This is what turned the world right side up in one generation.

A. Over the last two weeks, we have looked at how important the leading of the Holy Spirit was in the first century church.

1. It's been said that if the Holy Spirit didn't show up in the early church they wouldn't know what to do, but today, when He does show up we don't know what to do because we already have a plan. **We must learn to be spirit led.**
2. Today, we are going to learn about what happens when we are Spirit led, but things don't work out the way we expect. It's awesome when we obey and things work out perfectly, but what happens when life throws us a massive curveball?

B. Paul was thrown a curveball when the Holy Spirit led Him to Macedonia. He obeyed and ended up in prison. Has that ever happened to you? Today we are going to look at what Paul and Silas did to receive their breakthrough in the midst of hardship. They worshipped their way to victory.

II. The Power of Worship

A. **Acts 16:8-15** Paul Called to Philippi

1. **Acts 16:8-9** Paul receives the call.
2. **Acts 16:13-15** Interestingly enough in Paul's vision, it was a man that called him to Macedonia, however, when he gets to Philippi, it was a woman who initially received his ministry. **The Lesson is don't get so hung up on the details that you miss the spirit of what Jesus is doing.**

B. **Acts 16:16-24** Persecution in Philippi

1. **Acts 16:16-19** As Paul lived out the perfect will of God for his life, a girl with a spirit of divination followed him and harassed him and his ministry. Paul got annoyed and cast the spirit out of her!
2. **Acts 16:20-24** After perfectly obeying Jesus Paul was arrested and put in jail.
 - a. The slaveowners she worked for had Paul arrested because Paul cost them money by casting the devil out of her. Motivated by greed!
 - b. In the Roman Empire there were two very different laws: one for citizens of the Roman Empire, and one for those who were not citizens. Roman citizens had specific, zealously guarded civil rights. Non-citizens had no civil rights. The multitude and magistrates assumed Paul and Silas

were not Roman citizens and were offended these obviously Jewish men harassed Roman citizens with their strange religion of a crucified Savior.
c. It's not clear why Paul didn't invoke his citizenship here. This could have led to major condemnation but Paul wasn't condemned, he worshipped God.

C. Acts 16:25-34 Revival in Philippi

1. **Acts 16:25-26** In the midst of the hardship Paul and Silas begin to worship God. Why? Not because their circumstances were good. They worshipped Him because He is good even when they didn't understand what was going on. **Psalm 34:3.**

a. **Philippians 4:6-7** talks about how God gives the peace that passes understanding. In order to receive this, sometimes we have to give up the right to understand.

b. Notice that when the earthquake hit Paul and Silas didn't leave. Why? They were caught up in the presence of God. **God will bring breakthrough when we worship but we don't worship just to get breakthrough. We worship because He's good.**

2. **Acts:16:27-34** The Philippian jailer saved by believing on Jesus.

D. Acts 16:35-40 Paul and Silas Released From Prison

1. As Paul and Silas were released, it is interesting that Paul invokes his Roman citizenship (which meant he couldn't have been beaten without a trial).

a. Could it have been the leading of the Lord? Had he invoked it, they may never have met the Philippian jailer and led him to the Lord and seen the great move of the spirit in Philippi.

b. It's also possible Paul didn't think about it or tried to and wasn't heard because of the mob. Either way, even if Paul made a mistake that led to his imprisonment, God delivered Paul!

c. Paul made sure all of the Roman officers and magistrates knew he was a citizen and in that they found out that Paul's God brought a revival in Philippi!

2. **Acts 16:40** Paul and Silas didn't leave Philippi until they completed their assignment. The power of worship helped them endure hardship.

III. Conclusion - Worship isn't a song. It is a positioning of the heart. It's the ability to see that God is good even when our circumstances are not. This is where hope comes from.

A. Call Up Prayer Team and Give Alter Call

B. Pray Closing Prayer

