

**THE PRISON OF HIS \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Acts 16:16-34**

**Intro:** Prison is a place of confinement. It provided \_\_\_\_\_ movement and little access to the world outside its walls. Its original intent was to be a place where the inmate paid for their crime by being restricted from a normal lifestyle of freedom of choice and movement in society. Often believers are confined by \_\_\_\_\_ for various reasons and purposes. One such instance is that of Horatio Spafford. His was confined to an unexpected prison of great \_\_\_\_\_. In that prison Mr. Spafford \_\_\_\_\_ how to praise God in such great loss, thus penning the words of the song "It Is Well With My Soul". A song that has ministered to millions around the world and been a wonderful testimony of the Grace of God.

It took great \_\_\_\_\_ for Horatio Spafford to write those words. God took the worse prison experience of his life and turned it into a place of praise and hope. In our passage today we see Paul and Silas as they find themselves in a difficult prison of oppression and \_\_\_\_\_. In that prison they experienced the great grace of God. They received everything they needed to transform a prison of pain into a prison of \_\_\_\_\_.

**I. IT WAS A PLACE OF MISERY Vs 16-24**

A. The Misery Of The \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 19-21

1. When Paul and company arrived in Philippi, they expected great things to happen. After all, the Lord had very clearly \_\_\_\_\_ them to that city. Vs 6-12
2. God's will was further revealed when Lydia and some others came to faith in the Lord. Vs 13-15
3. As soon as the Lord started blessing, the \_\_\_\_\_ became angry and retaliated. eL16-24

B. The Misery Of The \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 22-23

1. A mob quickly formed and demanded Paul and Silas be \_\_\_\_\_
2. They were beaten and thrown in prison.

C. The Misery Of The \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 24

1. Most likely, they would have been thrown into a deep, dark cell that would have been the \_\_\_\_\_ place you could ever imagine.
2. They would have been \_\_\_\_\_ amid mud, filth, and human waste.
3. They were there for no other reason but for faithful, \_\_\_\_\_ service to the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. God never promised the life of the obedient believer would be a life of \_\_\_\_\_ and happiness. Just the opposite, God \_\_\_\_\_ of the difficulty that would \_\_\_\_\_ come with obedience. **2 Timothy 3:12** *All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

**II. IT IS A PLACE OF MINISTRY Vs 25**

A. A Place Of \_\_\_\_\_ Ministry

1. Paul and Silas were \_\_\_\_\_, humiliated and in need of some encouragement.
2. After all, they had followed the Lord to Philippi and now they are sitting, chained in a cruel \_\_\_\_\_ prison.
3. In their hour of need they had \_\_\_\_\_ man to whom they could turn for help.

4. They turned to the \_\_\_\_\_ source of help available to them. They turned to God and lifted their hearts to Him in \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. *Let us come boldly to the Throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16*
- b. *Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show the great and mighty things, which you know not. Jeremiah 33:3*

B. A Place Of \_\_\_\_\_ Ministry

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1. As they prayed, their prison was \_\_\_\_\_ from a place of pain into a place of praise.
2. Paul and Silas began to sing songs of praise unto the Lord. *The Lord will send his faithful love by day; His song will be with me in the night; a prayer to the life. Psalm 42:8*
3. Charles Spurgeon said, "Any fool can sing in the day. It is easy to sing when we can read the notes by daylight; but the skillful singer is he who can sing when a ray of light to read by.... Songs in the night come only from God; they are power of men."

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C. A Place Of \_\_\_\_\_ Ministry *And the prisoners heard them Vs 25b*

**III. IT IS A PLACE OF MAJESTY Vs 26-33**

A. The Majesty Of God's Power over the \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 26

B. The Majesty Of God's Power over the \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 27-33

1. The man in charge no \_\_\_\_\_ was in charge Vs 27
2. The man \_\_\_\_\_ now was the one in charge Vs 28
3. The God of all circumstances was now using the environment and circumstances to accomplish his plan and \_\_\_\_\_ for Paul and Silas' imprisonment Vs

**29-34**

Conclusion: When the prison door slams behind you and you find yourself locked down tight in the shackles of your \_\_\_\_\_ and problems, you may feel that there is no reason to praise the Lord. If you turn your heart toward Heaven, God will \_\_\_\_\_ you, and help you lift your voice in praise to Him. You will also find that He will give you \_\_\_\_\_ in your heart that He will use your prison for His glory and for your good. If you are in a prison experience today, \_\_\_\_\_ your need to God. Allow Him to turn your prison of pain into a prison of \_\_\_\_\_. The pain may not go away, but now your heart will be focused on God and \_\_\_\_\_ yourself.