

# THE POWER OF PRAISE

Big Idea: When we praise God, we don't just express His power, we will experience it as well.

Big Question: What power do we experience in our praise?

Main Scripture: Acts 16:22-40

Acts 16:22-24 <sup>22</sup> A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. <sup>23</sup> They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. <sup>24</sup> So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.

Acts 16:25 <sup>25</sup> Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.

## 1. The power to keep our focus

Acts 16:26 <sup>26</sup> Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!

## 2. The power to set people free

These quaint religious songs were to the men more than a source of relaxation; they were a stimulus to courage and a tie to Heaven. --- Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson

The Negro Spirituals did more to free my people than all the guns of the Union Army. – W. C. Handy

## 3. The power to lead others to faith

Acts 16:27-34 <sup>27</sup> The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!" <sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." <sup>32</sup> And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. <sup>33</sup> Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. <sup>34</sup> He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.