

DON'T TAKE THE BAIT

“Offended by God”

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

Acts 16:22-24 (NLT)

IT'S EASY TO BELIEVE AT TIMES THAT GOD ISN'T FOR US, ESPECIALLY WITHOUT KNOWING THE “WHY.”

²⁵ Around midnight Paul and Silas were **praying and singing hymns to God**, and the **other prisoners were listening**.

Acts 16:25 (NLT)

WHEN WE DON'T KNOW THE “WHY” WE NEED TO LEAN INTO THE “WHO.”

- Romans 8:** God IS FOR us. And if God is FOR US, who can be against us?
- Matthew 10:** Do not worry! His eye is on the sparrow, and so we know He watches us and will provide!
- 1 Corinthians. 10:** God is faithful, who will not allow us to be overcome with temptations.
- Proverbs 3:** He will direct our paths.
- Romans 8:** All things work together for the good of those who love God.
- Matthew 28:** Jesus will be with us always.
- Isaiah 41:** Do not fear, for I am with you. I will strengthen you and uphold you with my right hand.
- Philippians 1:** He who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

²⁶ 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!** ²⁷ 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. Acts 16:26-27 (NLT)

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Matthew 5:44 (NIV)

²⁸ *But Paul shouted to him, “**Stop! Don’t kill yourself! We are all here!**”* ²⁹ *The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out and asked, “**Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**” Acts 16:28-30 (NLT)*

³¹ *They replied, “**Believe in the Lord Jesus** and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.”* ³² *And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. ³³ 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. ³⁴ 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. Acts 16:31-34 (NLT)*

TRUE FAITH LIVED OUT CAN CHANGE ANY HEART UNEXPECTEDLY.