

Acts 16:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Analysis

Paul and Silas 'praying and singing hymns' while imprisoned with beaten backs demonstrates joy transcending circumstances through worship. Other prisoners 'heard them,' making their response a powerful testimony. This radical praise in suffering reflects the Beatitudes' reality and attracts divine intervention.

Historical Context

At midnight in Philippi's inner prison (AD 50), after illegal beating and imprisonment, their worship preceded the earthquake that freed all prisoners. This worship-driven deliverance established pattern seen throughout Acts—praise precedes breakthrough.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How can believers cultivate worshipful responses to unjust suffering?
2. What witness does maintaining joy and worship in hardship provide to watching unbelievers?

Interlinear Text

Κατὰ δὲ τὸ μεσονύκτιον Παῦλος καὶ Σιλᾶς
at **And** ^{G3588} **midnight** **Paul** **and** **Silas**
G2596 G1161 G3317 G3972 G2532 G4609

προσευχόμενοι ὕμνου τὸν θεόν ἐπηκροῶντο δὲ
prayed **and sang praises** ^{G3588} **unto God** **heard** **And**
G4336 G5214 G2316 G1874 G1161

αὐτῶν οἱ δέσμιαι·
them ^{G3588} **the prisoners**
G846 G1198

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:62 (Resurrection): At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.

James 1:2 (Parallel theme): My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

Romans 5:3 (Parallel theme): And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

Psalms 77:6 (Parallel theme): I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.

Hebrews 5:7 (Prayer): Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Ephesians 5:19 (Parallel theme): Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Colossians 1:24 (Parallel theme): Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

Psalms 50:15 (Parallel theme): And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Job 35:10 (References God): But none saith, Where is God my maker, who giveth songs in the night;

Romans 12:12 (Prayer): Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

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