

## **Unshackled: What God Is Speaking In Your Deliverance**

[Act 16:22-32 NASB95] 22 The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order [them] to be beaten with rods. 23 When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; 24 and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; 26 and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. 27 When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!" 29 And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.

### **Introduction:**

- This is a fallen, messed up, sinful world.
- Many are asking about what is God saying to us in the midst of these times.
- The text:
  - V. 22-24 Persecuted for righteousness.
  - V. 25 Praying and praising while shackled and hurting.
  - V. 26 Powerful response.
  - V. 27 Prompt awakening.
  - V. 28 Presence of mind.
  - V. 29-30 Penitent heart opened.
  - V. 31-32 Preached Gospel.

What is God saying about our deliverance?

God is saying seven truths about our deliverance.

### **I. God is saying, "I got you."**

- a. V. 22-24 – Persecution happens.
- b. [Jhn 16:33 NASB95] 33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."
- c. [1Pe 4:12 NASB95] 12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

### **II. God is saying, "Engage Me."**

- a. V. 25 – maybe not a formula, but a principle of operation.
- b. They prayed and praised for quite some time.
- c. [2Ch 20:21 NASB95] 21 When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the LORD and those who praised [Him] in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, "Give thanks to the LORD, for His lovingkindness is everlasting."

### **III. God is saying, "I am responding."**

- a. V. 26 – God used a natural event at a supernatural time for a supernatural purpose.
- b. When God responds, expect doors opened and chains to loosen.

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- c. [Psa 37:25 NASB95] 25 I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his descendants begging bread.

#### **IV. God is saying, "I am awakening people."**

- a. V. 27 – Many people are sleeping.
- b. God's response will wake people up.
- c. [2Co 2:14 NASB95] 14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.

#### **V. God is saying, "Be concerned for other people."**

- a. V. 28 – Instead of being all caught up in their deliverance, Paul had the presence of mind to care for the anxiety of the man who was about to face eternity without Jesus.
- b. Paul wished no harm on the man who harmed him.
- c. [Gen 50:19-21 NASB95] 19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? 20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, [but] God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. 21 "So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

#### **VI. God is saying, "Expect a harvest of souls."**

- a. V. 29-30 - The opened jail doors opened jailer's heart.
- b. Be ready to help people come to Jesus.
- c. [1Pe 3:15 NASB95] 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always [being] ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

#### **VII. God is saying, "Preach the Gospel."**

- a. V. 31 – simple.
  - b. V. 32 – explained.
  - c. [2Ti 4:2 NASB95] 2 preach the word; be ready in season [and] out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.
- God is saying, "I got you. Call to Me. I am responding. I am awakening people. Be concerned for others. Expect a harvest of souls. Preach the Gospel."
  - Resist worry, fear, and anxiety. Keep calling on Him. Believe God is moving. Know that He is drawing people to Himself through you. Concern yourself about other people. Share the Gospel.