

Recap of 3/13/22 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 16:25-40

1. Despite their brutal treatment (stripped, beaten with rods, and thrown into prison) Paul and Silas responded by prayer and singing hymns to God at midnight. Rather than despair, or complaining, or doubting God or calling down God's judgment their response was one of joy.

2. What is the place of suffering, trials, hardships in the Christian life?

-Suffering and future glory are linked (2 Corinthians 4:17)

-Paul's experience of suffering is an encouragement and example to us (1 Thessalonians 3:3; 2 Corinthians 1:8; 2 Timothy 1:8)

-Suffering is not an intrusion into the Christian life but is the norm (John 16:33; Matthew 16:34; 2 Timothy 3:12; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 4:12)

-The world continues to persecute Jesus through us (Colossians 1:24; 1 Peter 4:12-16)

-The "benefits" of suffering are;

-Suffering produces perseverance, character, & hope (Romans 5:3)

-God comforts us so that we will be sensitive to the suffering of others and comfort them (2 Corinthians 1:3,4)

-Suffering produces faith and love (2 Thessalonians 1:3,4)

-Trials produce perseverance which produces maturity (James 1:2-4)

-Trials prove the genuineness of our faith and bring glory to God (1 Peter 1:3-7)

-Our response to suffering (all are supernatural responses, not natural responses)

-Rejoice (Romans 5:3)

-Consider it joy (James 1:2)

-Rejoice (1 Peter 4:13)

-Commit ourselves to God and continue to do good (1 Peter 4:19)

3. Salvation is offered to the jailer on the basis of faith in the Lord Jesus alone, not on the basis of works, ritual or law. The same offer applies to his household (wife, children, servants, others under his authority) as well.

4. The jailer's family responds in faith and is saved. This would not include infants in his household because those who responded could believe (vs. 31), could understand the spoken word (vs. 32), and could respond with joy (vs. 34).