

Title: "Jumping to Joy"

Text: Acts 16:25-34

Target: If you want to be able to still rejoice when you have lost everything, then you have to possess something greater than what you lost. Therefore, happiness is based upon circumstances, while joy is based upon a concrete reality of something that never changes. What is that reality? JESUS

I. Songs arise in Sorrow: (Acts 16:25)

- **Change of Plans:** "*forbidden by the Holy Spirit*" (Acts 16:6-10)
- **Confronted with Persecution:** "*beat them with rods*" (Acts 16:19-22)
- **Confined in Prison:** "*put them into the inner prison*" (Acts 16:23-24)

Hymns: Psalms 113-118 is known as the Paschal Hymns most likely sung during the Last Supper with Jesus.

Application: God is about to **TEACH** something!

II. Miracles Happen at Midnight: (Acts 16:26-29)

A. Divine Intervention: (26)

- Foundations: "*shaken*"
- Doors: "*opened*"
- Bonds: "*unfastened*"

B. Human Intercession: (27-29)

- Concern: "*cried with a loud voice*" (28)
- Compassion: "*Do not harm yourself*" (28)
- Comfort: "*trembling with fear*" (29)

Application: God is about to **DO** something!

III. Forgiveness Gives True Freedom: (Acts 16:30-34)

- Plea for Salvation: "*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*" (30)
- Plan of Salvation: "*Believe in the Lord Jesus*" (31)
- Promise in Salvation: "*you will be saved*" (31)
- Picture because of Salvation: "*baptized at once*" (33)

Application: God is about to **CHANGE** something!

Take Away: To embrace joy is to embrace Jesus, causing praise despite pain, purpose in the midst of problems, and a platform to reach people.

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains" - C.S. Lewis