

# Experiencing God Together

“Experiencing God Through Worship” – Acts 16:16-34

September 7, 2025

40 DAYS OF EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER		
A Journey to Encounter the Living God Together		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Aug 17	Experiencing God Through Community	Acts 1-2
Aug 24	Experiencing God Through His Word	Psalm 19:7-14
Aug 31	Experiencing God Through Prayer	Acts 12:1-19
Sept 7	Experiencing God Through Worship (Jimmy Needham)	Acts 16:16-34
Sept 14	Experiencing God Through Watching and Obeying	John 5:19-20
Sept 21	Experiencing God Through Faith Sharing	Acts 1:6-11
Sept 28	Experiencing God as a Family	Joshua 24:15

## Background

- Paul is on his second missionary journey
- Paul and Silas Are arrested in Philippi
- Philippi is an official Roman colony, meaning, that is what a transplant of Rome and one would have the same rights and pleasures as if they were in Rome.
- There was no synagogue in Philippi. Paul went outside the gate to find a place for prayer (v.13) At least 10 Jewish men are required to organize a synagogue.
- Philippi was known as a hero worship city
- Philippi was wealthy and luxurious and a major port and trade route between Europe and Asia minor.

Things we can learn about experiencing God through worship from Paul and Silas introduction to Philippi. (Acts 16:16-40)

## 1. Understanding the \_\_\_\_\_ meaning of worship and praise is very important!

- **Worship:** to revere, show extravagant respect or admiration, comes from old English *worth ship*. To value a person or object.
- **Praise:** an expression of worship, declare a persons or objects worth
- At first glance it would seem the demon in this story is worshipping God and that Paul is not. (vv.16-18)
- While this demon is accurately praising God, it is trying to benefit and join in with Gods glory.
- **Isaiah 42:8** *I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to idols.*

- By accurately praising God the demon, who knows what God is getting ready to do in Philippi, is seeking to continue to deceive the people of Philippi and muddy the waters of the gospel.
- **Matthew 7:15-20** *Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.*
- **Application #1** ask yourself:
  - Do I worship God or merely praise Him?
  - What are things that I value more than God in my life at this moment?
    - Family, Spouse, significant other
    - Career
    - House, car, boat, video games...
    - Money
    - Pleasure, comfort
    - Time
    - Control
    - Self
    - ...

## 2. Our worship is not determined by our \_\_\_\_\_ rather true worship determines how we respond to \_\_\_\_\_.

- What is Paul and Silas' response to being beaten and imprisoned?
  - Praying
  - Singing Gods praises
- Notice what happens as Paul and Silas worship in terrible circumstances. (vv.25-28)
- All the prisoners listened and instead of fleeing when they are set free, they “all” stayed. And they church in Philippi is born!

## 3. To truly experience God through worship, we must be \_\_\_\_\_ to and \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit!

- Even though the demon was accurately praising God, Paul was Intune enough with Gods Spirit to see through what was happening.
- In a place that was built on hero worship God was about to turn things upside down. God is setting the platform for Paul to return at a later date and redefine heroism.
- ***Philippians 2:3-4*** *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*
- Not all praise is genuine worship! It is possible to praise God while not worshipping Him at all.
- Application #2 Lord is there any area in my life where I have made an idol that I am giving worship above You? Today I repent of \_\_\_\_\_ and ask You to fill that place in my heart with Your Holy Spirit!
- The Philippian guard and his whole family believe in Christ and are saved.
- ***Romans 3:23*** *for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God*
- ***Romans 6:23*** *for the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life*
- ***Romans 10:9-13*** *because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.<sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

Lord, I acknowledge that I am a sinner in need of Your mercy and grace. I believe that You sent Your son Jesus to die for my sins! I believe HE rose from the dead defeating death and sin! I surrender my life to You! Make of me a new creation and place Your Holy Spirit in me that I might be forgiven and led by Your Spirit! amen