

FBC Sebring Wednesday Prayer Meeting – Pastor Matt Crawford

April 6, 2016

Prayer in the Book of Acts (Part 11)

Acts 16:19-34 (ESV)

[Immediate context: demon-possessed girl whom Paul freed by the power of Jesus' Name]

19 But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers.

20 And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city.

21 They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice."

22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods.

23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely.

24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,

26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

Prayer points:

- Pray that people in our community would be open (and not resistant) to the work of God in freeing and blessing people (verse 19). Pray that our nation would no longer call what is good "evil," and no longer call "evil" what is good (Isaiah 5:20).
- Pray that we would not fear man, but be willing, and even grateful, to suffer for the Name of Jesus (Acts 5:40-42).
- Ask God to give us a spirit of joy, worship, thanksgiving, and faith, even in the midst of suffering for the Lord (Romans 8:18).
- Ask God to do great things through us (verse 26) as we trust in Him and call on His Name.

27 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."

29 And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas.

30 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

31 And 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 and to all who were in his house.

33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.

34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

Prayer points:

- Pray for unbelievers around us to be hungry for the gospel like the Philippian jailer (verse 30), and pray that we would be ready to speak the gospel to them.
- Pray for a great revival in our community – that whole households would be saved and baptized!
- Thank God for the simple, beautiful, and saving gospel of Christ: “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.”