

SERMON NOTES

Series: Joy No Matter What

Title: Against All Odds

Text: Ph. 1:8; Acts 16:13-40

**Topic: Paul's Affection for
the Philippians**

Teacher: Pastor Barry

Time: 4/23/23; File Under: Expository



THE JAILER: is a **blue-collar** worker, probably an ex-GI. He's not interested in **intellectual** discourse. He wants nothing to do with any **religious**, charismatic hoopla involving miracles and the super-natural. He's **indifferent**. He's not **super rich**, but he's not poor. So how does God go after this guy?

In the Roman Empire during this period of time if a prisoner was lost or escaped, whoever was responsible for that prisoner was **put to death**.

God goes after him by showing him, there is a higher **duty**, a duty that transcends duty to country/family/employer. God gives him an **example** through Paul and Silas of Christian duty.

An earthquake makes it possible for Paul and the other prisoners to **flee**, but Paul and the others **stay** and that opens up an opportunity for Paul and Silas to witness for Jesus.

The members of the First Baptist Church of Philippi: A crazy rich, intellectual, CEO; a former demon-possessed slave girl, and a blue collar, middle-class, duty bound, ex-marine. Paul was **there** when it all started.

No wonder Paul is so confident in the gospel, so convinced of the power of the Holy

Spirit, so excited about the difference a relationship with Jesus makes in a person's life, he's **seen** it. He's **experienced** it.

This one little church in Philippi defied **race**, defied **socio-economic** boundaries, defied **reason** and most importantly defied **Satan**.

The Gospel created a **diverse**, new community that could have never existed except for the **Holy Spirit** getting a hold of people's lives.

That should embolden us to **witness!**

Who have you written off as beyond the reach of God's love? In Philippi we see that absolutely no one is beyond the reach of God's love and His power to **rescue and save**.