

## That's My Story & We're Still Writing It! #6

7/7/2024

Everyone's story with Jesus is unique! The discovering and going forward in a faith...

### How Closed Doors Led to Changed Lives in Philippi...

<sup>6</sup> Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having **been kept by the Holy Spirit** from preaching the word in the province of Asia. <sup>7</sup> When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. <sup>8</sup> So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> During the night **Paul had a vision** of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "**Come over to Macedonia and help us.**" <sup>10</sup> So, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding God had called us to share the gospel with them.

Acts 16:6-10

### Business Woman, Female Slave, & Jailer

<sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath we **went outside the city gate** to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to **speak to the women** who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> One of those listening was a woman named **Lydia**, a dealer in purple cloth from Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord **opened Lydia's heart to respond** to Paul's message. <sup>15</sup> When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. 'If you consider **me a believer in the Lord Jesus,**' she said, 'come and stay at my house.' And she persuaded us..." Acts 16:13-15

➤ Lydia found God's loving embrace & welcome !

<sup>16</sup> Once while going to the place of prayer, we were met by a **female slave** who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a lot of money for her owners by fortune-telling... <sup>18</sup> Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to **come out of her!**" Instantly, the spirit left her.

Acts 16:16-18

➤ Female slave was released from control & exploitation !

<sup>19</sup> When her owners realized their hope of making money was gone, they **seized Paul and Silas** and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities...

<sup>23</sup> After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the **jailer** was commanded to guard them carefully... <sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were **praying and singing hymns to God**, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

<sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was a **violent earthquake** and the foundations of the prison were shaken. The prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. <sup>27</sup> The **jailer** woke up, saw the prison doors open, drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted, "**Don't harm yourself!** We are all here!" <sup>29</sup> The jailer rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?**"

<sup>31</sup> They replied, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus**, and you will be saved- you and your household..." <sup>34</sup> The jailer brought them into his house gave them a meal; he was **filled with joy** because he had **come to believe in God**- he and his whole household.

Acts 16:19-34

➤ Jailer found God's peace within his own prison !

## Owning & Sharing Your Jesus Story....

### YOU BEFORE Faith in Jesus

- Attitudes toward God and others...
- Perceptions of myself & the world...
- Priorities & strategies lived...
- Gains, successes & joys...
- Losses, struggles & pains...

### YOU DURING your Change of Heart

- Circumstances that got your attention....
- People who were involved or helpful.....
- How Jesus became real or reached you...

### YOU NOW walking with Jesus

How does Jesus help you with things like...

- Purpose, peace, priorities, power...
- Security, significance, status, stability, selfishness...
- Privately, publicly, in relationships & responsibilities...