

# OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Phil O. Waldo  
*Lead Pastor*



1224 Hancock Drive  
Boone, Iowa 50036

Phone: 515 432-3329

Website: [www.booneopenbible.com](http://www.booneopenbible.com)  
E-mail: [office@booneopenbible.com](mailto:office@booneopenbible.com)  
[pastor@booneopenbible.com](mailto:pastor@booneopenbible.com)

**SERMON TITLE** God is Shaking the House

**SERIES**

**DATE** 8/18/2024

**KEY SCRIPTURE** Acts 16:16-26

**SYNOPSIS** When God shakes things up, he sets people free.

**HIGHLIGHTS**



## ☞ God is Shaking the House

### Acts 16:16-26

**16** Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. **17** This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved."

They were on their way to the place of prayer when this evil spirit started interfering with them. She accurately described them and what they were doing. The devil knows who Jesus is and he knows those that truly follow the Lord. She was probably trying to further her reputation by accurately predicting what they would be doing. Maybe the crowd would be more impressed with her than with Paul and Silas. The enemy always seeks self-glory, while true followers of Christ seek God's glory. Here's what you need to know –

☞ *when you go after God, don't be surprised if the enemy tries to disrupt your plans.*

**18** She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

"Finally"... why did he wait? I don't know. But sometimes we put up with demonic influence too long. Things like temptation and discouragement. It finally gets to be too much, then we act.

☞ Regardless, *the power of Jesus overcomes the power of the enemy.*

**19** When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. **20** They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar **21** by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

Even doing a good deed can be opposed by ungodly people. Sometimes you may be just doing a good thing, but others don't like it and attack you for it. The enemy doesn't play fair.

**22** The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. **23** After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. **24** Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Paul and Silas were just being obedient to God. Earlier in the chapter you can see that they were carefully following the leading of the Holy Spirit. They started a new church in Philippi when Lydia got saved, and everyone in her household was baptized. It seems they were simply going about the business the Lord had called them to when trouble erupted. Paul even delivered this slave girl from a demon. God was working, good things were happening, and then boom, trouble.

This is becoming more of the norm in today's world – there is antagonism just for being a Christian and following the Lord. There are some listening today that feel a bit "beaten up" by the enemy. Others feel



as though they have been bound and locked up, with no means of escape. It seems as though the enemy has the upper hand and is holding you down.

Paul and Silas were making a dent in the enemy's territory and advancing the kingdom of God, and the enemy didn't like it, so he attacked. So, here they are bruised from a good beating, locked up in the dingy, dirty, dark dungeon. At first the enemy was simply annoying to them, now he is outright attacking them. He couldn't discourage them so he set out to destroy them.

This inner cell was a damp interior cell with no light. The stocks were an instrument of torture as well as confinement. The feet, stretched wide apart, were shoved through holes in a wall or beam of wood, and the prisoner was fastened there. They couldn't move around or reposition themselves – extremely uncomfortable to say the least.

This treatment for simply doing good deeds certainly doesn't seem fair, but as I said, the devil doesn't play fair. He's in the business of trying to destroy the works of Christ and His church, and trying to prevent the gospel from going out.

**25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.**

Now picture this; two Pentecostal preachers chained in a cold, damp prison cell, their backs bleeding from a whipping, and their feet fastened in painful stocks. But they began to sing praises to God! They didn't sing, "Gloom, despair, and agony on me, deep dark depression, excessive misery. If it weren't for bad luck I'd have no luck at all. Gloom, despair, and agony on me." I don't believe they sang, "Why me, Lord?"

In the midst of the darkness they sang praises!

In the midst of their pain they sang praises!

In spite of their feelings they sang praises!

In spite of their circumstances they sang praises!

**☞ They didn't let the dark dim their devotion!**

They didn't let the stocks stifle their spirit!

They didn't let the locks limit their love of the Lord.

In spite of all their troubles, Paul and Silas continued to pray and sing to God. When you are in a situation which feels hopeless – trapped, with nowhere to go; at the last hour; zero visibility; you can't see a way out, what should you do? – Praise the Lord.

**☞ The best time to praise is when you don't feel like it. There is power in praise.**

**At the midnight hour:** This is another way of saying, "at the last minute." When everything looked hopeless, they didn't call their lawyer to get them out of jail. They didn't get a committee together to discuss all the injustices that had been done to them. They prayed and sang praises to God! And then, there was a whole lot of shakin' goin' on!



God shook that prison! It was a miracle. The doors of the prison opened and every man's shackles were loosed! Have you ever heard the expression after a good performance, "He brought the house down?" The prayers and praises of Paul and Silas literally brought the jailhouse down.

God did some powerful shaking. The enemy thought he had them subdued, but God shook it all up and set them free. It's never too late for God to intervene in your life. Don't ever give up. Keep on going after God!

☞ **God can suddenly change the situation**, so much so, that the very foundation of the opposition is shaken to the core. Whatever has been holding you back and keeping you down can suddenly be shaken loose and you can be free. God can do such a work that even those who have opposed you can come around to the truth and see the light (like the jailer). That's who God is and what God can do.

When God shakes things up, he removes all the restraints. He breaks the chains that have been binding. He even goes clear to the core foundation to make a change. He is getting rid of all the hindrances and entanglements so that only his stuff remains.

#### ☞ **Hebrews 12:26-29**

now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." 27 The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken — that is, created things — so that what cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, **since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe**, 29 for our "God is a consuming fire."

When God moves in your situation, he can set you free completely. Not only can he release you from whatever has you subdued and bound, he can break up the foundation as well. What's the root cause? God can affect that too!

I don't know what you are facing this morning. You may have been mistreated, humiliated, put-down, dejected, misunderstood, and used. Everything may look bleak, and gloom and doom have become your daily companions. You may feel you have no reason to pray or praise God. You may feel like you are in a prison of your circumstances and there is no way out! But God is here this morning to shake your jailhouse! He is here to bring deliverance, to set you free! God can open up your prison doors and break the chains that confine you. He can tear down the strongholds in your life!

☞ Begin to pray and give God praise! **Prayer + praise = victory!** In the midst of your circumstance, sing praises to the Lord. In the midst of your trial, praise the Lord. In the midst of your darkness, sing praise to the Lord. God is shaking the house and you can be set free.

**Faithful Now  
I speak Jesus**