

Uncommon |

Echo Church | Week 13 | March 30, 2025 | Rich Saunders Jr. |

Acts 16:25-34 NKJV

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

²⁶ 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 chains were loosed.

²⁷ And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.

²⁸ But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

²⁹ Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

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

³¹ So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

³² Then 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* stripes. And immediately he and all his *family* were baptized.

³⁴ Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

GenZ Version

26. Yo, outta nowhere, there's this huge earthquake that's shaking the foundations of the prison. And boom, just like that, all the doors swing open and everybody's chains break free.

There is a song that lyrics say, "HELL LOST ANOTHER ONE, I AM FREE" I pondered if this is what freedom looks like, or if we are singing the lyrics in faith. When freedom is present it is a sign that bondage is no longer there.

Opening Question: What do you do when your faith leads you to a place that doesn't feel like freedom? Do you still pour out your praise when life puts you in chains?

Scripture Context (Acts 16):

Paul and Silas are in Philippi doing what God called them to do, yet they end up beaten, chained, and imprisoned.

This wasn't the result of their sin; it was because they were doing something *uncommon*.

Key Thought: *Sometimes doing God's will doesn't lead you to comfort. It leads you to chains—but there's purpose in your prison!*

II. Uncommon Praise (Acts 16:25-26)

Point 1: Your praise changes your present.

Paul and Silas didn't wait for freedom to praise; they praised while bound.

They didn't praise for freedom; they praised because God was **still God**.

Praise isn't about your *condition*; it's about your *conviction*.

Many of us only pour out praise when we want something from God. But what do you offer when He hasn't done the thing you prayed for, and you still feel bound?

Challenge: Are you praising God with an expectation for Him to move or because He's worthy, no matter what?

Scripture Reference (2 Chronicles 20:22):

²² Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

When King Jehoshaphat sent out singers to praise God in the midst of enemy forces, the enemies were defeated "immediately." Worship doesn't just shift the atmosphere; it shifts the outcome!

III. Uncommon Response

Point 2: God's power works in the "immediately" and the "suddenly."

Verses 26-29 are packed with words like "immediately" and "suddenly." When you pour out your worship—even in pain or chains—God shows up. Often, faster than you can imagine.

The earthquake didn't just free Paul and Silas; it freed everyone around them.

Your worship is *contagious*. ***What you pour out doesn't just affect you; it touches people you didn't even know were waiting for freedom.***

When you're poured out, you're positioned for God to fill others through you.

Personal Reflection

Imagine Paul and Silas. They could've groaned and complained. Instead, they made a decision to create an atmosphere of **expectation** in the darkest of places.

What is God asking you to do in your midnight hour?

Additional Scripture Reference (Psalm 34:1):

"I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

IV. Uncommon Outcome

Point 3: Your worship points to salvation.

Verse 30-34 shows the jailer asking Paul and Silas, "What must I do to be saved?"

When we worship God in an uncommon way, even unbelievers recognize there's something about Him. Your willingness to pour out—even in pain—is a witness.

The jailer and his entire household were saved because Paul and Silas dared to have *uncommon faith and praise*.

Scripture Reference (Isaiah 61:3)

God promises to give us "beauty for ashes" and the "garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."

Your pouring out makes room for God's filling, not only in your life but also in the lives of others.

Closing

Uncommon praise disrupts the atmosphere. It moves mountains, shifts prisons, and changes lives.

Sometimes, God takes us through the midnight hour to reveal His plan and power. Are you willing to pour out your worship, not for what you'll receive, but because He is worthy?

Final Challenge

Today, pour out to be filled. Step into uncommon worship, and watch how God shows up "immediately" and "suddenly."

Closing Scripture (Ephesians 3:20):

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."

