

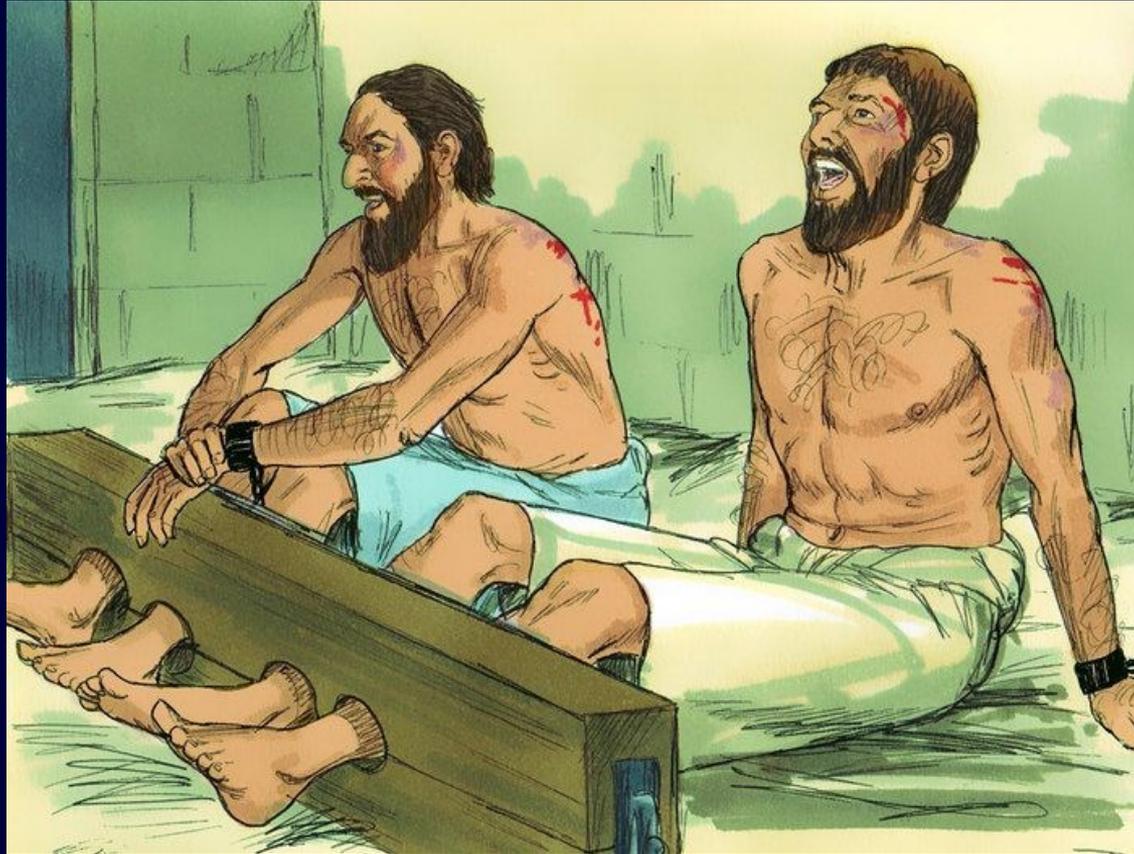
Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

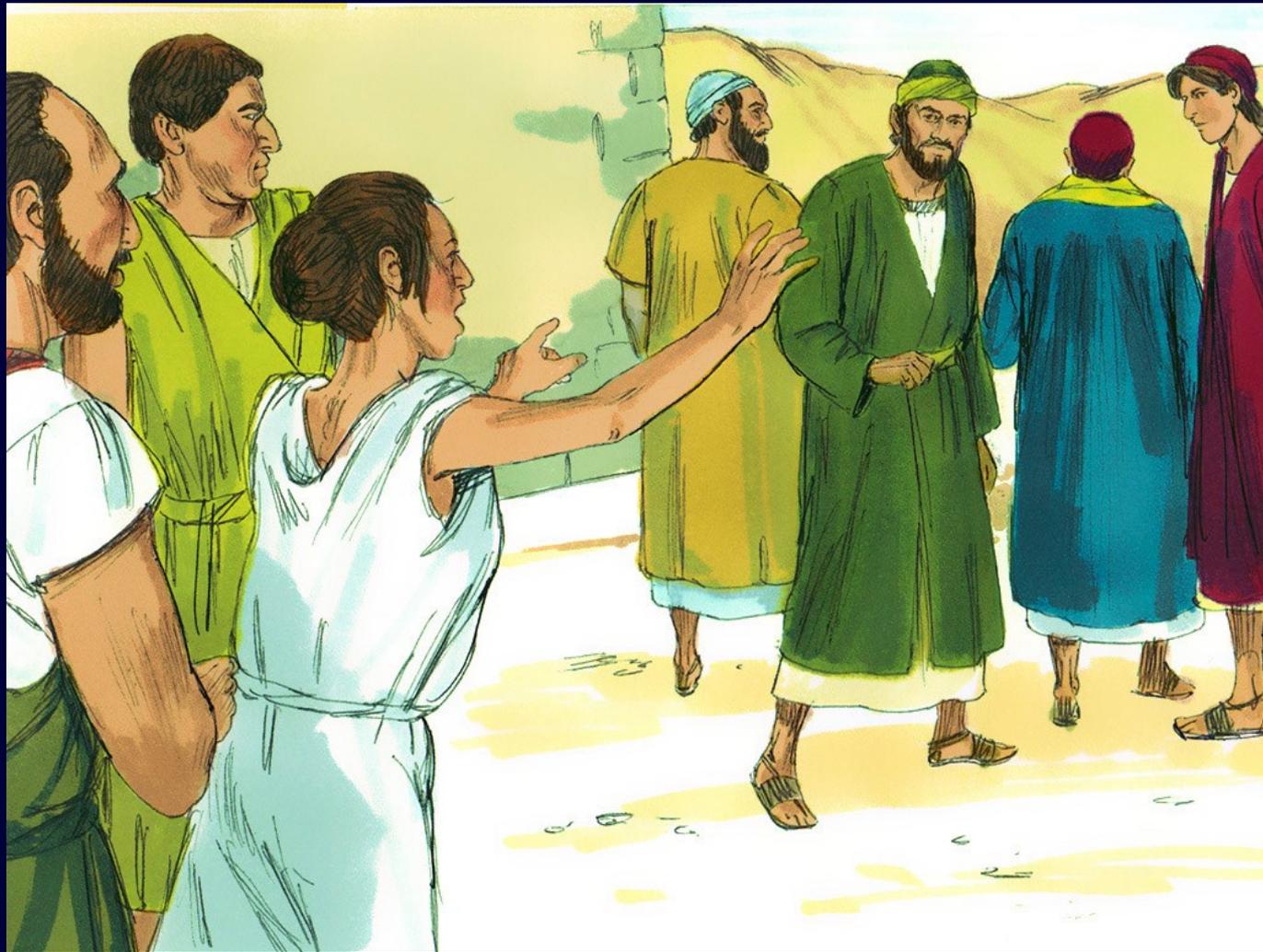
Church – The Beginnings, Part 47

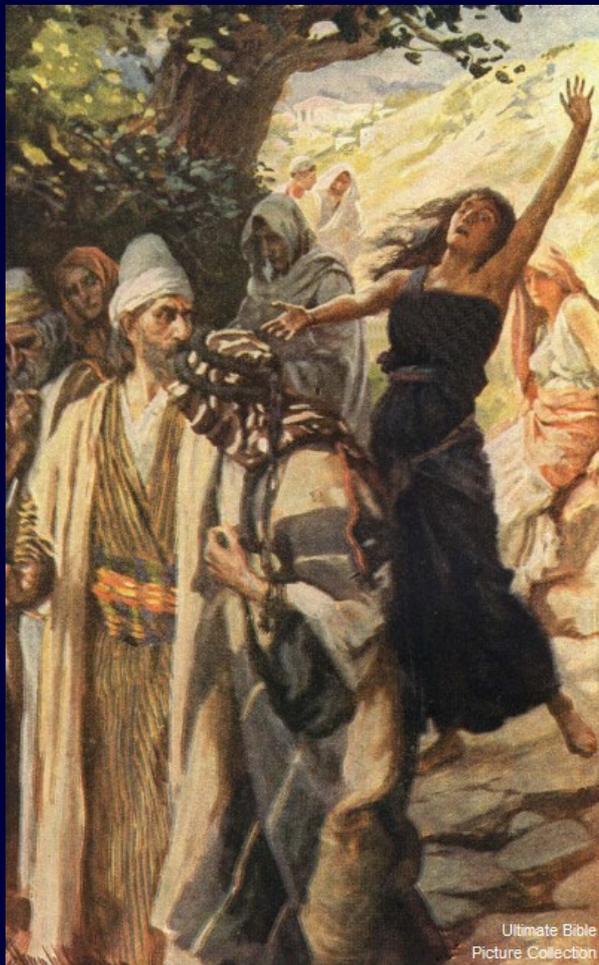
Using our Rights as Citizens for the Sake of the Gospel
Acts 16:35-40



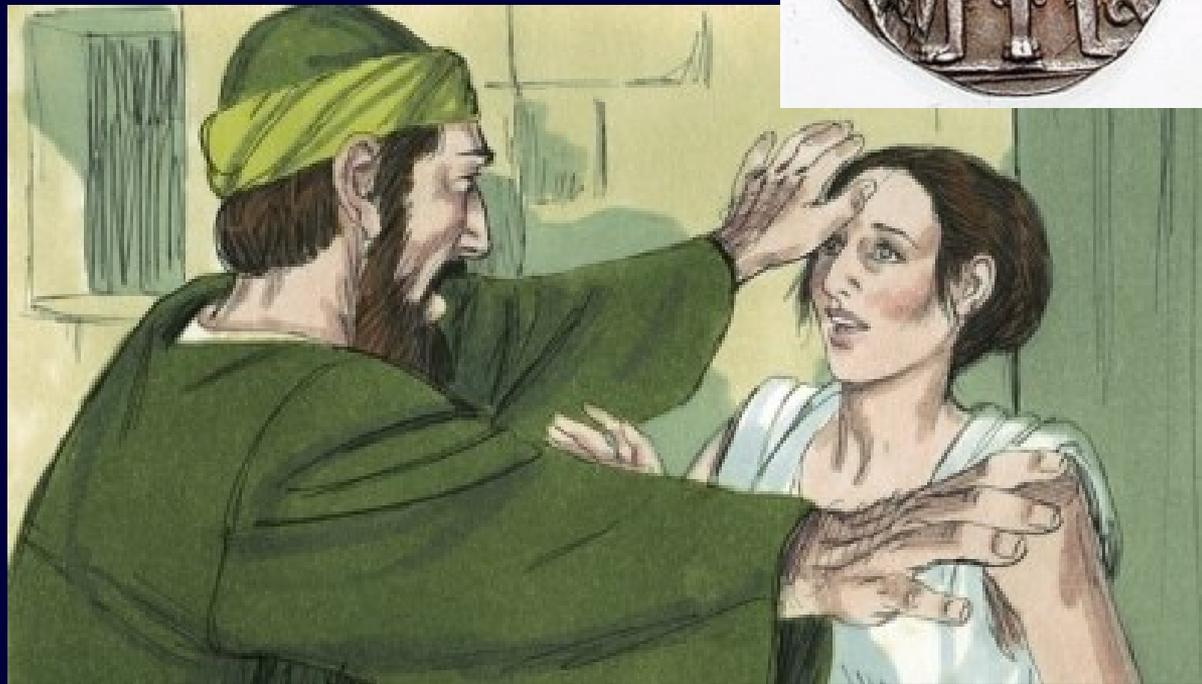


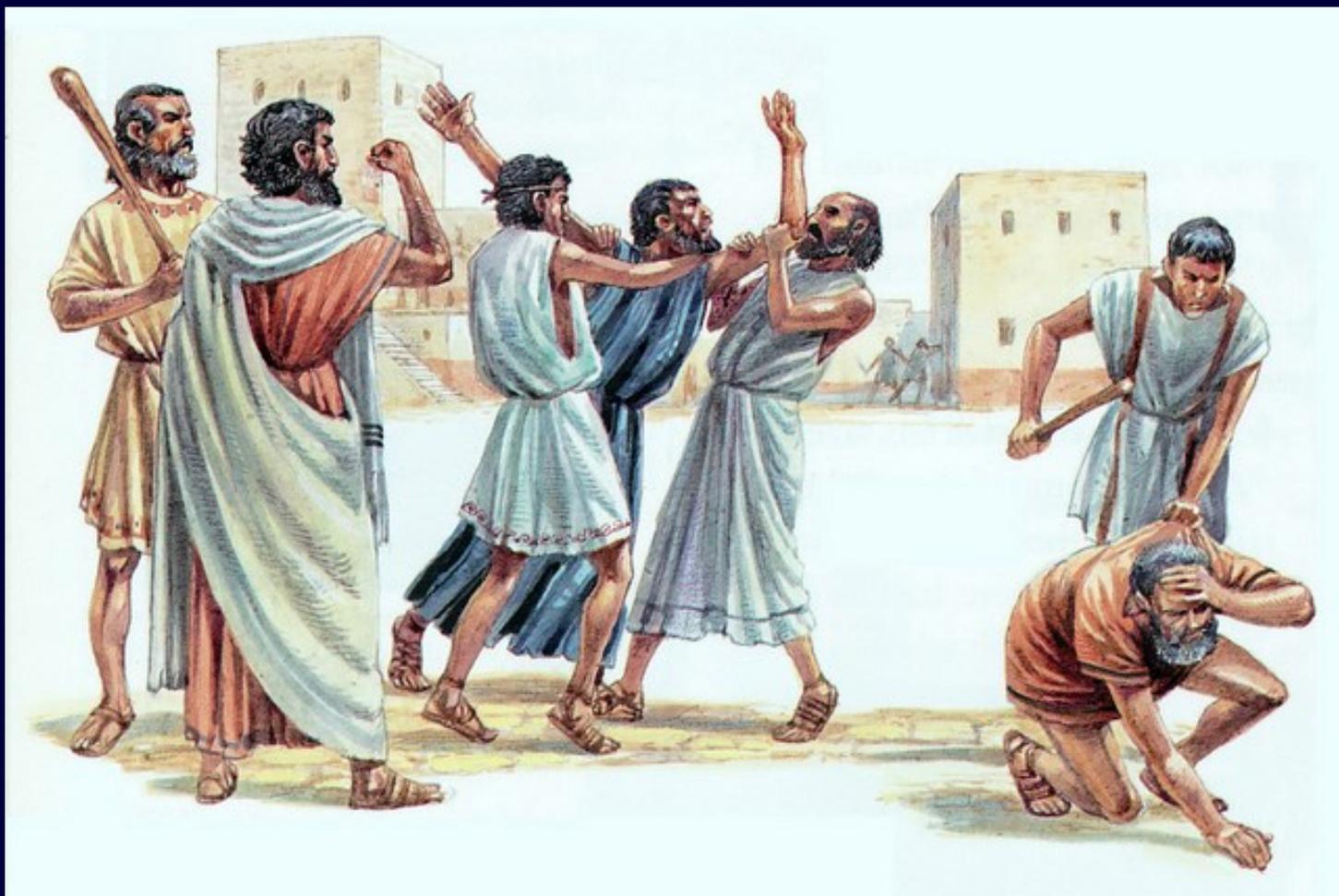




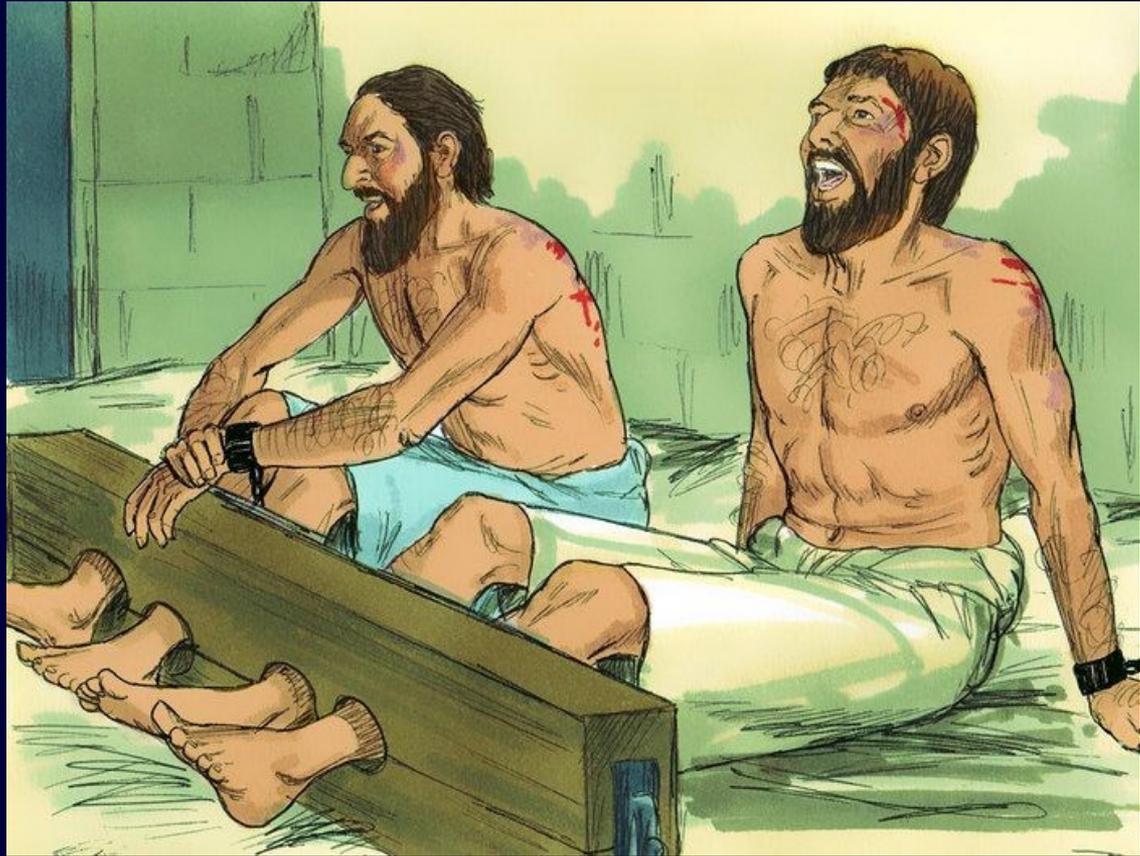


Ultimate Bible
Picture Collection





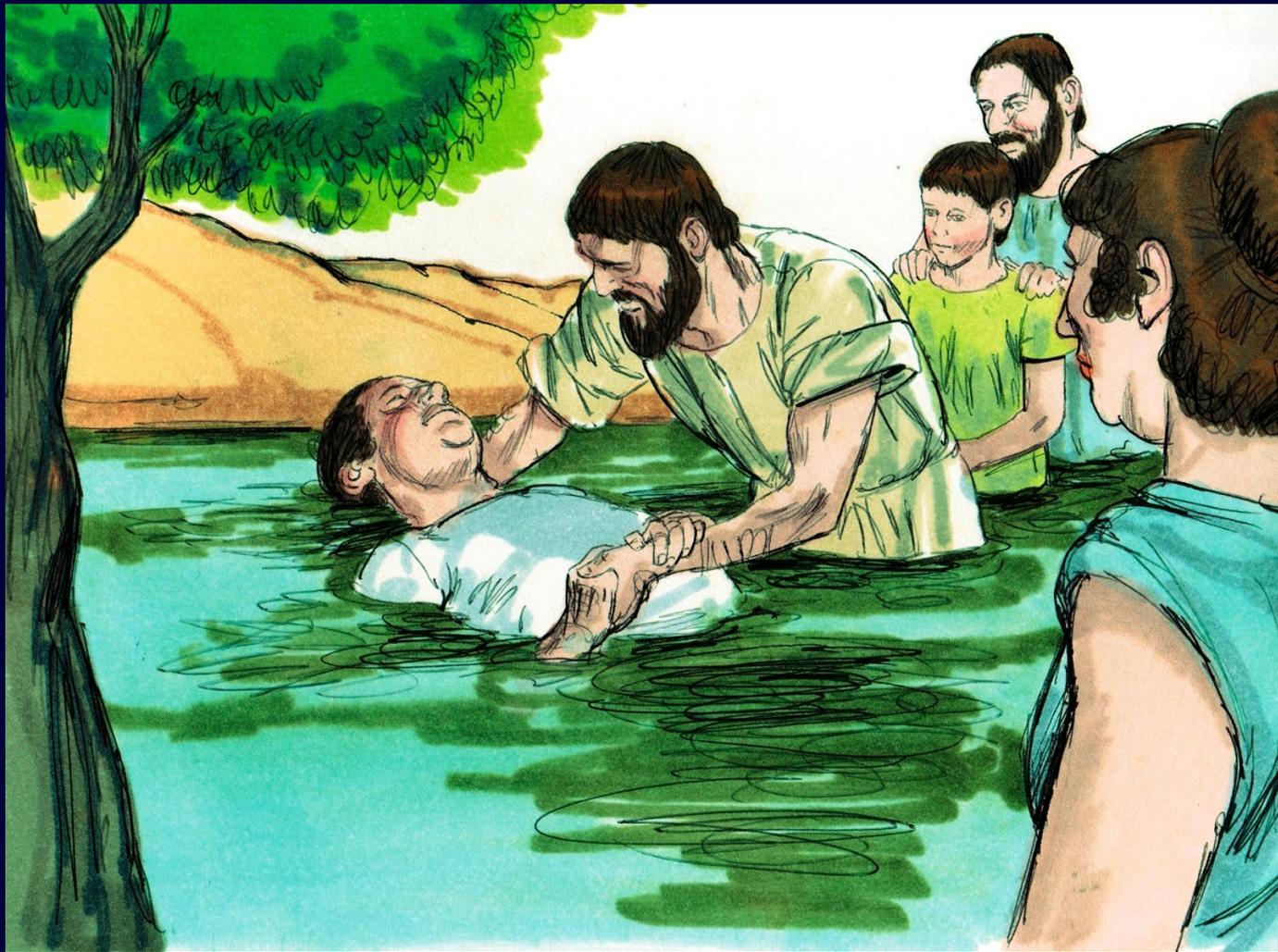












Acts 16:35-40

When daylight came, the chief magistrates sent the police to say, “Release those men.”

³⁶ The jailer reported these words to Paul: “The magistrates have sent orders for you to be released. So come out now and go in peace.”

³⁷ But Paul said to them, “They beat us in public without a trial, although we are Roman citizens, and threw us in jail. And now are they going to send us away secretly? Certainly not! On the contrary, let them come themselves and escort us out.”

³⁸ The police reported these words to the magistrates. They were afraid when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens. ³⁹ So they came to appease them, and escorting them from prison, they urged them to leave town. ⁴⁰ After leaving the jail, they came to Lydia’s house, where they saw and encouraged the brothers and sisters, and departed.



1. When Paul and Silas were offered a “free ride out of town” what was Paul’s reaction? (see verses 35-37) –

³⁷ But Paul said to them, “They beat us in public without a trial, although we are Roman citizens, and threw us in jail. And now are they going to send us away secretly? **CERTAINLY NOT!** On the contrary, **let them come themselves and escort us out.**”

Oh no you don’t – we are Citizens of Rome, beaten publicly, with a legal trial – no due process of law – ALL of our RIGHTS were violated, publicly. Uh uh, no you don’t!!!

You come over here and tell us to our faces, and escort us out of Prison. – **But what about ... we should just suffer quietly?**

Let's talk about the possibility of Suffering because of Spreading the Gospel → It's NORMAL

Matthew 5:10-12 - “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Acts 14:22 - “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

2 Timothy 3:12 – “... and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

2. What happened to “we just need to forgive people?”
Why didn't Paul & Silas just forgive them? (see Luke 17:3-4)

³ Take heed to yourselves. **IF** your brother sins against you, **rebuke him**; and **IF** he **repents**, *[then]* **forgive** him. ⁴ And **IF** he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day **returns to you**, saying, ‘**I repent**,’ you shall **forgive** him.”

FORGIVENESS is a TRANSACTION and IS CONDITIONAL

Forgiveness never takes place unless it follows these two verses
Think about how you had to Repent and Ask for Forgiveness from
God in Jesus' Name ... receiving it was **Conditional**

**ALSO: We must be willing to Forgive, Ready to Forgive and
We are NOT to Harbor Bitterness in our Hearts, either.**

3. Why were the Magistrates (the chief political rulers) of Philippi so afraid after Paul responded? (verses 38)

38 The police reported these words to the magistrates. They were afraid when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens.

Paul & Silas were Roman Citizens beaten in public without a legal trail – OH NO ... If Rome heard about that, it would be the end of their terms in office, etc. They might even be beaten Publicly just like Paul and Silas were, and maybe even worse – since that would be an embarrassment to Rome’s “honor”, etc.

**They were very afraid ... it was almost like the fear of God
Roman Citizens had the Right Publicly Violated ...**

Major Consequences ...



When and why is it a good thing, sometimes, to demand your rights?



4. When and why is it a good thing, sometimes, to demand your rights?

1 Cor. 9:19-23 ¹⁹For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; ²⁰and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; ²¹to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; ²²to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by ALL MEANS save some. ²³Now this I do for THE GOSPEL'S SAKE, that I may be partaker of it with you.

BY USING ALL MEANS ... to save some for the Gospel's SAKE

4. When and why is it a good thing, sometimes, to demand your rights?

1 Cor. 9:19-23

22 ... that I might by ALL MEANS save some. 23 Now this I do for THE GOSPEL'S SAKE, that I may be partaker of it with you.

Paul did everything for the GOSPEL's sake

Paul is an example for us. We can, even, use our CIVIL RIGHTS, civilly, in such a way that it can be an advantage to us in spreading the Gospel and in protecting the church, etc. We know that after this incident by Paul & Silas, the church in Philippi did not have many problems from the civil authorities for quite a while. Paul used his Roman Rights to allow "shame" and "fear" to humble the city officials so that they would think twice in doing anything to the church, there.

5. **Contrast that with what Jesus commands of His followers: “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” [Luke 9:23] – how does that square with “demanding our rights”?**

As individuals, we, each, are to deny our “old self” , our old sinful nature from ruling in our lives, and we are to surrender ourselves the rulership of Christ in our lives, daily. We are to live for Christ and for Christ’s Cause of the Spread of the Gospel. To live for Christ’s sake, for the Gospel’s sake. We can use, our civil rights, to our advantage for the Gospel’s sake, when appropriate and applicable. We are NOT to use our “Rights” as a club just to get our way, to get stuff, and to be selfish and self-centered. We are to use our “Right” in a “right way” that is pleasing to God and can be used for the Gospel’s sake – as a TOOL for the Mission.

6. What were Paul & Silas' main concerns as they were leaving town?
Who did they go to and check on, on their way out of town?

⁴⁰ After leaving the jail, they came to Lydia's house, where they saw and encouraged the brothers and sisters, and departed.

Paul & Silas' concern was for that very young small church there in Philippi ... they wanted to make sure they would **STAY** the **COURSE**

[ref. 2 Corinthians 11:22-28 – especially vs. 28]

2 Corinthians 11:22-28

²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. ²³ Are they ministers of Christ? — I speak as a fool — I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. ²⁴ From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; ²⁷ in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness — ²⁸ besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

**6. What were Paul & Silas' main concerns as they were leaving town?
Who did they go to and check on, on their way out of town?**

40 After leaving the jail, they came to Lydia's house, where they saw and encouraged the brothers and sisters, and departed.

2 Corinthians 11:22-28

**“besides the other things, what comes upon me
(i.e.: what weighs upon me – or - what burdens me) daily:
my deep concern for all the churches”**

Our main concern should be for the Gospel going forward and for the church (the people in those churches) to be healthy in Christ should → those should be our main concerns and it should shape our decisions with our use of our Time, Talents, and Treasure.