

Joy in Your Home

Acts 16:22-40

Traits of Happy Christians

- **Consistency** – they walk daily with Christ.
- **Courage** – the courage to deal with their problems and their conflicts.
- **Contentment** – they have become content with their life.
- **People** – they spend several hours each day in healthy interchange with others.
- **Friends** – they have at least ten close friends.

Traits of Happy Christian Homes

- Christ-centered homes
- They bring the “sacrifice of praise” to the Lord
- They spend time together
- They are on mission for God together
- They have a 5:1 positive/negative interaction with one another

The early church and the family

- The early church was family oriented
- “House to house” meant family to family
- In Philippi especially, both stories of converts - Lydia and the jailer – speak of their families or their “households.”

Today we will see

- The gloom that preceded joy
- The light that awakened joy
- The change that brought joy
- The purpose that sustained joy

1. The gloom that preceded joy

- **Acts 16:22-23:** “The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.”

1. The gloom that preceded joy

- A city that largely rejected the gospel
- A city leadership that was unjust
- A man who had an unpleasant job
- A man who had a discouraged heart

2. The light that awakened joy

- Two surprising messengers sent by God
- Acts 16:25-28: “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and 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 bonds were unfastened.”

2. The light that awakened joy

- A surprising reaction from them
- Acts 16:27-28: “When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, ‘Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.’”

2. The light that awakened joy

- An inner desire the Spirit had nurtured
- Acts 16:29: “And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas.”
- The gospel simply stated
- Acts 16:30-31: “Then he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ And they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’”

2. The light that awakened joy

- “...and your household”
- The jailer’s family lived at the jail
- His children had grown up hearing what went on in the jail
- Now they were hearing the gospel

3. The change that brought joy

- Acts 16:32-34: And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.**

4. The purpose that sustained joy

- 1 Peter 4:9-10: “Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”
- The ministry of hospitality
- The joy of worship
- The ministry of opportunity
- The joy of belonging

A Happy Home

- **Have you let the world squeeze the joy out of your home?**
- **Courageously deal with your problems.**
- **See the Lord for who He is.**
- **See the members of your family in light of how greatly God loves them.**
- **Discover your family ministry**