



Open My Heart [Opportunity] Acts 16:25-40

What happens when God opens our hearts?

A. The Remarkable - God Moves [Acts 16:25-26]

... nothing will be impossible with God [Luke 1:37]

B. The Opportunity - Seizing the Moment [Acts 16:27-34]

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. [Ephesians 5:15-16]

[The Apology - Acts 16:35-39]

C. The Impact - Legacy [Acts 16:40; Philippians 1:3-11]

One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.
[Psalm 145:4]

Study Questions/Prayer

[1] Read Acts 16:25-26. When have you seen God move in a remarkable way?

[2] Read Acts 16:27-30. Can you remember a time when you leveraged an opportunity to minister to someone?

[3] Read Acts 16:25-34. What can we learn from Paul and Silas' response when they were thrown in jail? What can we learn from their leveraging of the opportunity in the chaos [27-29], and why was their response so vital to their ministry in Philippi?

[4] Pray for God to open your heart with the goal of ongoing personal transformation, living in the freedom found in Christ, and the courage to leverage opportunities to impact the lives of people around you through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 55:6-9 "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Acts 16:25-40 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶ 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.

²⁷ 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. ²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² And 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 wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. ³⁴ 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.

³⁵ But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go." ³⁶ And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace." ³⁷ But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out." ³⁸ The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens. ³⁹ So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. ⁴⁰ So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.

Philippians 1:3-11 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.