



**DGM Message Title: Turn It Into Worship**

**Concept: Don't Let Bad Circumstances Rule You**

**Message Summary:** We have to learn that just because it hurts, does not mean that God is failing. When life is not fair, we need to trust God. When it hurts we need to have faith in God.

**Scriptural References:**

- Acts 16:16 KJV
- Acts 16:17-32 NKJV
- 2 Corinthians 4:8 NKJV
- James 2:19 NKJV

**Key Points:**

- Everybody makes choices
- Your life cannot rise higher than the level of your choices
- God does miracles for us, but does liberate us from our own choices
- Without choices we are no longer free
- There is a price for freedom: the consequences for our choices, whether good or bad

**Acts 16:16 KJV**

- Everything that comes will also pass. This too shall pass!
- Paul had a remarkable prayer life.
- Despite how close we are to God, people can still frustrate us.
- If people never baffle you, you must not be awake.
- 2 Corinthians 4:8 NKJV
  - If it wasn't one thing it was another. It's always something.
  - Paul kept his head up and was confident that God can turn his life around
  - He did not lose hope and knew that God was working behind the scenes.
  - Even though the things in his life did not make sense, he trusted God.
  - Have you ever been in a position where you absolutely could not help yourself?
    - This is the value of having a shepherd in your life.
    - Growth can be risky but being stuck where you don't belong can be worse.
  - God protected Paul from the predators without, and the weaknesses within.
  - God can change your situation just in the nick of time.
- Greek - Spirit of python

- Used to predict the future.
- We do not operate in spiritually closed systems.
  - Angels and Demons
  - Not equal in power but both present.
  - Every supernatural voice you hear is not the voice of God.
- The way to find out if it is God is to line it up with the Bible.
  - God never changes.
  - What He said 2000 years ago is still relevant, today.
- If you are doing the Lord's work, you will not have to look for the devil because he will find you.

#### Acts 16:17 NKJV

- Demons have some power but not all power
- Have you ever been in a situation where someone is saying all the right things, but has the wrong spirit?
- How do I deal with what people are doing without undermining God's work?
- James 2:19 NKJV
  - Even the demons believe
  - Only humans debate about God's existence
  - Four illogical things an atheist must embrace
    - Nothing created everything
    - Chaos created order
    - Non-life created life
    - Non-consciousness created consciousness; (on and on)
  - I have too much faith to not believe in God
  - Demons know God exist, they just refuse to commit to His goodness
  - It's one thing knowing God, it's another thing to submit and to love God back
  - The devil knows He is, but just won't submit.
  - We are like the devil when we know God, but won't submit to His will.

#### Acts 16:18 NKJV

- The demon was like the python spirit It added more pressure to her.
- People think that Christian's won't ever get angry or annoyed.
  - You will not always be fine.
- Paul's anger was not with the lady. It was with the spirit that kept her trapped.
- The devil is a bully and seldom leaves without confrontation.
- Some things can be counseled out, some things can be taught out, but some spirits are so deep that they need to be cast out.
- When Paul used his authority, he was able to resolve something in an hour that he was dealing with for days and the young girl was probably dealing with for a lifetime.
- The last thing the enemy wants is to discover who you are in Christ and the power you have in His name.
- The enemy wants you to deal with the person instead of attacking the spirit behind it.
  - Speak to the spirit behind the foolishness instead of dealing with the fool.

#### Acts 16:19 NKJV

- When you stop being the devil's doormat, not everyone will be happy.

Acts 16:22 NKJV

- All Paul did was try to set a little girl free.
- Paul just took authority over a circumstance that approached him.
- The rods were so severe that the person could be maimed for life.

Acts 16:23-24 NKJV

- Their charge was so severe that the jailer put them into the deepest part of the prison.
- The stocks were another form of severe torture.

Acts 16:25 NKJV

- But at midnight...!
  - Paul and Silas prayed and worshiped all day & night
  - Still praying at midnight
  - When things don't go the way you think they should go, late into the midnight hour, can you still be hear praying and singing with a melody in your heart, to your God?
- They had a joy they world didn't give, and the world couldn't take away.
- I am completely satisfied with an audience of one: God (quote)
- You can shake the foundation of the thing that is holding you down if you praise through your pain... if you trust God despite of your situation.
- What has us bound also comes down immediately when we praise God.
- Many of us worship God only when we want something, but we must always praise God, even through the hard times.

Acts 16:26-27 NKJV

- Your victory is not just for you; it is bigger than you. It is for those around you.
- If Paul and Silas had only been worshipping to get free, they would have run. But they stayed.
- We do not worship God to get free, we worship God because we are free.
- When you are free on the inside, you will worship God no matter what is happening on the outside.
- The reason we quit worshipping sometimes is not because of our circumstance or what someone did, but because of who we are in our bondage.

Acts 16:29 NKJV

- God turned Paul & Silas's position around in a second.
- We know that when we worship Him, God is going to show up and things will happen, but we should not worship Him just to get things.
  - At some point our faith needs to be more than inches deep.
  - We need to worship Him when things are not going ok.
- People often lose faith when God does not always bless people.
- We need to praise God because He is good.
- We need to love God even if He does not fix our situation.
- It has to be our commitment to God
- The credibility comes when we're down to nothing but we stay faithful to God
- We have to worship a little deeper

- If you're down to only God, you have enough
  - God should be enough

Acts 16:30 NKJV

- The greatest challenge is blessing those who hurt you.
- The weak never can forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong. – Gandhi

Acts 16:31 NKJV

- The best way to destroy an enemy is to make them a friend. – Abraham Lincoln
- While we were yet enemies, God made us His friend.
- While we were sinners, Christ died for us.
- If we choose to be His friend, everything shifts and changes.

Acts 16:32 NKJV

- God turned their pain into power, battle into a blessing, obstacles into an opportunity.
- The reason we feel so beaten is because we are trying to fight battles that belong to God.
- God loves you more than you love yourself.
- When you trust God, He shows up in measure.
- We have to learn that just because it hurts, does not mean that God is failing.
- When it is not fair, we need to trust.
- Even when it hurts we need to have faith in God.
- Even when we are not well or in pain or dealing with stressful situations, God is still God.