



Things to Talk About and Reflect Upon

"Bound to Set Free"

Points from Sunday's Message

Point 1 - God sometimes leads by closing doors and limiting options.

Point 2 - God makes known His will because He wants you to walk in it.

Point 3 - God wills that His workers would work wisely for the sake of His Kingdom.

Point 4 - God's workers performing God's will are not always warmly welcomed.

Point 5 - When God's workers perform God's will, God works to open doors that only God can open.

Key Verse:

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

—Acts 16:25

Discussion Questions:

1. When God closes the door

Paul was doing exactly what Jesus commanded — carrying the gospel to new places — and twice the Holy Spirit stopped him (v. 6–8). He couldn't go left to Asia, couldn't go right to Bithynia, couldn't go back, and hit the Aegean Sea in front of him.

Why is a closed door so much harder to accept than an open one? Can you look back on a time when God's "no" turned out to be his leading rather than his rejection?

Further Reading: Acts 16:6–10; Proverbs 16:9; Genesis 50:19–20

2. Learning to wait like a waiter

The message put it this way: while you're waiting, wait like a waiter — serving. Paul didn't sit idle in Troas; he kept doing what an ambassador does, and that's where he met Luke.

What does waiting on God actually look like day to day — in your Bible reading, your prayer, your community? Where are you currently in a "Troas" season, and what is the next faithful thing in front of you while you wait?

Further Reading: Isaiah 40:28–31; Proverbs 3:5–6; Psalm 27:14

3. Stop hunting for the hidden will and start walking in the revealed one

Many of us treat God's will like a code to crack. But Scripture repeatedly says, "This is the will of God" — and then names something concrete: your sanctification, purity, patience with all, rejoicing always, praying without ceasing, giving thanks.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8 and 5:14–22 together. Which single command in those verses would most reshape your week if you actually obeyed it? What would obeying it cost you — and why do we need the Spirit's power, not just willpower, to do it?

Further Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8; 1 Thessalonians 5:14–22; Romans 12:1–2

4. Working wisely with what God already gave you

Paul used ordinary wisdom: go to the biggest city, look for the synagogue, and when there isn't one, head to the riverside where God-fearers gather. He worked — and God opened Lydia's heart. Who was working, Paul or God? Yes.

What training, experience, skill, or relational access do you have that God could use for his kingdom — including things that seem unspiritual? Where is the line between trusting God to work and using the wisdom he gave you?

Further Reading: Acts 16:11–15; Philippians 2:12–13; 1 Corinthians 12:4–7; Romans 12:4–8

5. Singing from the pit

Paul cast a demon out of a girl — a genuinely good thing — and got beaten and jailed for it. At midnight, in stocks, he and Silas were singing. "The prisoners were listening."

How do we hold together the idea that opposition may mean we're off track *and* that opposition often means we're right on target? What has to already be true of someone's heart for worship to come out under that kind of pressure — and how is that formed before the crisis, not during it?

Further Reading: Acts 16:16–25; 2 Timothy 3:12; Philippians 1:12–14 (Paul later writing *to Philippi* from another prison); Colossians 3:16–17

6. Ambassadors who make friends

An ambassador's job, as the message framed it, is to make friends and influence them on behalf of the king. The jailer came out of that night with a family, a table, and a faith — because two bound men stayed put and told him the truth.

When was the last time you intentionally built a friendship with someone who doesn't know Christ? What actually keeps us from it — fear, busyness, discomfort, disapproval? Name one person this week, and one specific step toward them.

Further Reading: Acts 16:26–34; 2 Corinthians 5:17–20; Colossians 4:2–6; 1 Peter 3:15

Use these blended questions for deeper personal reflection, prayer, or small group discussion.