Week 3:

Invincible Hope

Glorious Ruin

Questions

1. Where in your life do you need God's hope and joy right now:
    - your relationships
    - current challenges/circumstances in work or school
    - influences/temptations
    - your health or finances
2. What makes it difficult to choose hope and joy in the midst of pain or difficulty?
3. Read Acts 16:22-24. Paul and Silas were beaten, publicly humiliated, and imprisoned for doing what God had called them to do. Have you ever obeyed God and still found yourself facing circumstances you didn't expect? What did you learn about trusting Him through that season?
4. Read Acts 16:26-27. The jailer assumed the worst and was ready to give up, but Paul immediately spoke words of hope. Who in your life might need you to speak hope into a difficult situation right now?
5. Acts 16 shows people encountering opposition, suffering, fear, worship, courage, and salvation. Which part of their journey most resembles where you are right now? Why?
6. How might God be using your season of suffering and difficulty to develop perseverance, strengthen your character, and deepen your hope in Him?

Scripture References

Acts 16:16-25

16 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a
spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by
fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the
Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." 18 She kept this up for many days.
Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of
Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

19 When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and
Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. 20 They brought them before
the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar 21 by
advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

22 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be
stripped and beaten with rods. 23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into
prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24 When he received these orders,
he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

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25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing
hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to
them.

Romans 5:3-5
3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us
develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens
our confident hope of salvation. 5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know
how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Acts 16:26
Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the
doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!

Acts 16:27-33
27 The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped,
so he drew his sword to kill himself. 28 But Paul shouted to him, “Stop! Don’t kill yourself! We are
all here!”

29 The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and
Silas. 30 Then he brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

31 They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your
household.” 32 And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his
household. 33 Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds.
Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized.

Acts 16:34
The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because
he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

Acts 16:30-31
30 He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

31 They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”

Takeaways

- Your relationship with your adversity will shape your story and your legacy, unleashing suffering or joy to those closest to you.
- How can you become a person who consistently has joy and hope, even in suffering or adversity?
- You can have hope and joy in any difficulty if you’re right with God through Jesus.
- Jesus’s work on the cross unlocks invincible joy and hope for all who believe.

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- Believer, when you choose hope and joy in suffering it shows the power of Jesus to a searching world.
- If you choose God and His viewpoint in your suffering, God will produce a hope and a joy that would never have existed without that prison.
- The more we choose supernatural joy and hope in impossible circumstances….the more powerfully God shows Himself.
- You must declare to yourself and the universe, what you are putting your hope in.
- Baptism is a public declaration – to yourself and the universe that you have put your hope in Jesus.

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