

## Group Discussion:

February 28, 2021

Read Acts 16:16-40 together. What verse or verses stick out to you?

What are some other occasions in the bible where faithful men or women are found exhibiting faith during captivity?

In Psalm 137 we read a lament wherein the psalmist asks, “How can we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?” (V4). Can the Christian sing the Lord’s song when things aren’t going so well? If yes, does it help? How?

In 1 Corinthians 6:12 Paul writes, “All things are lawful for me but not all things are helpful...” Can our freedoms be abused? How so?

What are some ways we can use our physical freedoms to bless others? Living in The United States of America gives us liberties that other countries do not have. Oftentimes, we take these wonderful liberties for granted instead of using them to bless others. What are some freedoms we enjoy that others do not? Is the church exercising those freedoms for the benefit of others?



## Order of Worship

Call to Worship

Song – “Sing and Be Happy”

Song – “Blessed Be Your Name”

Prayer

Song – “That’s Why We Praise Him”

Song – “Come to the Table”

The Lord’s Supper

Offering

Scripture Reading – Acts 16:25-34

Song – “Amazing Grace”

Song – “A New Creature”

Sermon – “All I Need: A Study of Spiritual Freedom”

Song – “Out of My Bondage”

Shepherd’s Prayer

Final Praise – John 8:36

Song Leader – Roger Cook

## Some things to think about...

Have you ever truly felt free? What are some things that you feel keep you in chains? How many of these things are self-inflicted? Read 2 Peter 2:19,20: *“They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.”*

Am I guilty of holding others down? Do I ever abuse my freedom by taking someone else's? Has my exercise of freedom ever caused someone to stumble? Read Romans 14:14-16: *“I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil.”*

In your own words, define the following:

*Freedom*

*Slavery*

Again, in your own words, what would you say is the difference between physical freedom and slavery and spiritual freedom and slavery?

Would you say that one is worse than the other?

*“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery”* (Galatians 5:1).

What does this verse mean to you?

Write down a few ways that you are free in Christ.

Have you had any recent conversations in which you told someone else about this great freedom?

## More Scriptures for Reflection...

*“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ They answered him, ‘We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’” Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed’* (John 8:31-36).

*“Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave<sup>[g]</sup> nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise”* (Galatians 3:21-29).

*“But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, ‘When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men’”* (Ephesians 4:7,8).

*“I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts”* (Psalm 119:45).

*“But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit”* (2 Corinthians 3:16-18).