

“A Miracle at Midnight”

(Acts 16:25-31)

Context – 2nd missionary journey (Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke); a season of dreams & visions, great gospel *opportunities* (Man from Macedonia) – supernatural guidance from God’s Spirit – opened the path for the *Gospel* flag to be planted on the front door of Europe! As is always true – when there is great opportunity, there will be great *opposition* – demonic interference and interruption. But God...(Divine Intervention) - He will break through in the most *unlikely* ways and the most *unsuspecting* times...miracle after miracle!

Introduction – Every **Believer** will go through **Dark** and **Difficult** times – but we are never **Alone** and God is always **Aware**! (A *premise* and a promise from this passage)

Note: He is always at *Work*! (Behold; He who keeps Israel shall neither *slumber* nor *sleep*.) **Ps. 121:4**. See also **John 16:33** and **II Cor. 1:8-11** (you helping us in prayer)

Key: Common Theme in the book of Acts: Earth Shaking and Chain Breaking prayer! – **Acts 4:31**

I. **The Timing of the Miracle.** (But at midnight...) – (see vv. 19-24) great beginning to the new young church – Gospel opportunity faced fierce opposition; became Paul’s favorite (Church

at Philippi) – one of the legendary churches of Macedonia...

- ✓ **The Darkest and most Dangerous moment in their lives.** (Confusion - things didn’t make sense) – did we miss the Lord; misread His plan? How can this be happening if the Lord called us?

Note: In those *midnight moments*, God whispers “Trust me!”

Question – Anyone here going through a “Midnight Moment” right now? (*Health* concerns, *Financial* crisis, *Family* issues – children that are going down a wrong path?)

Illustration – Our journey with our oldest son Jonathan; a dark path of bad decisions, addictions, harmful and hurtful season in our lives (Miracle at Midnight) – Memphis Recovery Center called...

II. **The Elements in the Miracle.** (Paul & Silas were *praying* and *singing* hymns to God) – this response is confusing to the enemy.

- ✓ **The powerful combination of Prayer and Praise to God.** (mighty spiritual weapons that *demonstrates* our faith and *conquers* our fears!

Note: It is a response that is *counter-intuitive*; the opposite of how we feel or what seems “normal.”

Hymn #253 – “Have Faith in God”

III. The Witnesses to the Miracle. v. 25c (And the prisoners were listening to them...)

- ✓ The Lord is the primary Audience but others are always Watching. (we are all here) – not a single prisoner ran away. (Everyone's Chains were Loosed) – benefit of being around God's people!

Illustration -When we were going through our darkest days with our oldest son, God was using that season as a ministry opportunity for others also going through a crisis (phone calls; families visiting) – the opposite of what I feared...

Note: David knew this kind of miracle working power in his own experience (Psalms 40:1-3) – God heard my cries; rescued me!

IV. The Results from the Miracle. (27-31) – “sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (powerful impact of the Gospel)

- ✓ Lives were Changed and the church was Strengthened! (Read vv. 35-40)

Note: Paul was tough! He refused to go away quietly – demanded some justice as Roman citizens;

The Bottom Line: God, in His Sovereignty, has chosen to Connect His Activity to the Prayers of His People.

- ✚ Prayer Invites the Presence of God.
- ✚ Prayer Ignites the Power of God.

Hymn # 328 “What a Friend We have in Jesus” lyrics...

Closing and Invitation – You may be in a “Midnight Moment” today in your life, or for your family. Jesus can meet you there and give you the hope that you need.

Come to Jesus with your fears, with your burdens, and with your pain.

「午夜的神蹟」 (使徒行傳 16:25-31)

背景——第二次宣教旅程（保羅、西拉、提摩太和路加）；這是一段充滿夢想與異象的時刻，也是福音大門大大敞開的時刻（馬其頓的呼聲）。神的靈以超自然的方式引導，為福音的旗幟插在歐洲的門口開路！正如往常一樣——龐大的機會必然伴隨著強大的阻力——魔鬼的干擾與攔阻接踵而來。但是神…（祂的介入）祂會以最不可能的方式、在最出乎意料的時刻突破重圍——一個接一個的神蹟！

引言

每一位信徒都會經歷黑暗與艱難的時刻——但我們從不孤單，而且神必然了解我們的處境！（這是這段經文給我們的前提與應許。）

注意：祂一直在工作！

「看哪，看守以色列的，也不打盹，也不睡覺。」（詩篇 121:4）。另外，請參考約翰福音 16:33 以及哥林多後書 1:8-11（11 節「你們以祈禱幫助我們」）

重點：使徒行傳中的共同主題

震動大地、打破鎖鏈的禱告！——使徒行傳 4:31

I. 神蹟的時機（約在半夜...）

（請看 19-24 節）這是那間年輕教會美好的起步點——傳福音的機會卻遭遇猛烈的攻擊；後來它成為保羅最喜愛的教會之一（腓立比教會）——馬其頓地區的傳奇教會之一。

✓ 他們生命中最黑暗、最危險的時刻。（困惑——事情難以理解）我們是不是錯過了主的帶領？誤解了祂的計畫？如果主呼召我們來這裡，怎麼會發生這種事？

注意：在那些「半夜時刻」，神輕聲對我們說：「相信我。」

問題：在座的有人正經歷「半夜時刻」嗎？（健康的憂慮、財務的危機、家庭的難題——孩子走在錯誤的道路上？）

例證：我們與大兒子 **Jonathan** 的旅程；一段黑暗的道路——錯誤的決定、成癮、傷害與痛苦的時刻。（「午夜的神蹟」）直到孟菲斯復健中心打來電話...

II. 神蹟的要素

（保羅和西拉正在禱告、唱詩讚美神）——這樣的反應會讓仇敵困惑。

✓ 禱告與讚美神的強大組合。（這是屬靈的大能武器，表現出我們的信心，並征服我們的恐懼！）

注意：這是一種違反直覺的回應——與我們的感受相反，也與「正常」的反應不同。

詩歌〈當信服神〉

III. 神蹟的見證

第 25 節下半：「…眾囚犯也側耳而聽。」

✓ 主是我們的主要聽眾，但其他人也一直在看著。
（「我們都在這裡」）——沒有一個囚犯逃跑。
（眾囚犯的鎖鏈也都鬆開了）——這就是待在神子民身邊的祝福！

例證：當我們與大兒子走過人生最黑暗的日子時，
神正在使用那段艱難的時刻，成為服事其他陷入危機的家庭的機會（電話、家庭探訪）——完全是我原本所害怕的相反結果…

注意：大衛也在自己的生命經歷過這樣的神蹟大能
(詩篇 40:1-3)

——神垂聽我的呼求；
——祂把我拉上來！

IV. 神蹟的結果（27-31 節）

「二位先生，我當怎樣行才可以得救？」——福音的強大衝擊力！

✓ 生命被改變，教會得著堅固！（請看 35-40 節）

注意：保羅很剛強！他拒絕悄悄離開——他要求羅馬公民應得的公義。

結論：神在祂的主權中，選擇將祂的作為與祂子民的禱告連結起來。

禱告邀請神的同在。
禱告點燃神的能力。

詩歌〈耶穌恩友〉

結語與邀請

你或你的家庭可能正處在生命的「半夜時刻」。耶穌願意與你相遇，並賜給你所需要的盼望。

帶著你的恐懼、你的重擔、你的傷痛，來到耶穌面前。