WORLD OUTREACH CHURCH

SERMON DATE
July 22, 2026

Dangerous Faith
Uncomfortable Light

I. Jesus, Challenging the Darkness

John 8:44–45, 48–52 (NIV®)

"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!" . . . 48 The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?" 49 "I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. 50 I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. 51 I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." 52 At this the Jews exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that if anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death."

Matthew 10:32–36 (NIV®)

"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven. 34 Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— 36 a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'"

II. Introduced to Philippi

Supernatural Invitation

Acts 16:9–10 (NIV®)

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Lydia

Acts 16:12–15 (NIV®)

From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. 13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where **we expected to find a place of prayer**. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. 14 **One of those listening was a woman named Lydia**, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. 15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

A Slave Girl

Acts 16:16–17 (NIV®)

Once when **we were going to the place of prayer**, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. [17] This girl 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."

Arrested & Beaten, a Jailer

Acts 16:22–24 (NIV®)

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

Acts 16:26–34 (NIV®)

Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. [27] **The jailer woke up**, and when he saw the prison doors open, **he drew his sword and was about to kill** himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. [28] But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" [29] **The jailer called for lights**, rushed in and **fell trembling before Paul and Silas**. [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." [32] Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. [33] At that hour of the night **the jailer took them and washed their wounds**; then **immediately he and all his family were baptized**. [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 family.

III. The Philippian Believers (The Rest of the Story)

Philippians 1:12–14 (NIV®)

Now I want you to know, brothers, that **what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.** [13] As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that **I am in chains for Christ**. [14] Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

Philippians 1:27–30 (NIV®)

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel [28] without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. [29] For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, [30] since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

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