

Good morning! One of the things that Christians often seem to forget is that they have been called into a whole different culture, a counterintuitive, supernatural culture that doesn't just see what everyone else sees and doesn't just do what everyone else does. If we have been adopted into the family of Jesus and filled with His Spirit we ought to be acting differently, right? Our goals aren't the same; our motives aren't the same. This morning, let's look at just one example of this by reading one of the great New Testament stories together:

Around midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. 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! 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. But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!"

Acts 16:25-28

Isn't that just the greatest story *ever*? I love it! This story is full of surprises. Paul and his ministry companion, a man named Silas, had followed Paul's vision to go to Macedonia, where they had been attacked and beaten by an angry mob. (There's another Morning Greeting in *that* part of the story!) Now they were in a prison, at midnight, in chains. What would you do in that situation? Here's what Paul and Silas were doing---they were singing hymns and praising the Lord. We are told that "*the other prisoners were listening.*" I'll bet they were! I don't know if you've ever visited anyone in prison but I have a number of times, and I can tell you that I have never heard anyone praising God and singing hymns. Suddenly, there was an earthquake and the prison shook. The Bible says all the doors flew open and the chains fell off of every prisoner. Interestingly, it was not just Paul and Silas who were freed, but *every* prisoner. Who knows who else was in that prison---and now they were all on the loose! That's not your average, run of the mill earthquake. What would you do if that happened to you? I'd make a break for it---but Paul and Silas didn't. The jailer was freaking out and about to commit suicide. They reassured him that everyone --not just Paul and Silas, but *everyone*--was present and accounted for. When Paul and Silas were in trouble, people were watching. They were watching because they wanted to see what Jesus is like. Did you know that people around you are watching you too...to see what Jesus is like?