

're-thinking' some of the parables ... No.12/9 of 11

'IT'S JUST PAST MIDNIGHT' parable - Part 9

REVELATION FOLLOWS WORSHIP - Acts 16:25 - At Thyatira

The scene is set. A young lady is delivered from a controlling spirit of divination. The groups that were 'blessed' financially from this so-called anointing on her, failed to discern any problem. The man of God, just by being present, exposed and dealt with the situation and set her free. This affected their offerings! These influential leaders then stirred up that town of Thyatira, with the backing of the town's law enforcers, and had these two men of God, Paul and Silas, arrested. Without hearing their side of the story, which is normal for similar situations in church circles, they were put into the inner prison. How often do we judge a vessel of God by what we are told by others or by what we see or hear? When that happens, no one even thinks of asking the accused party for their input. God had sent His envoys to that town to impart life and the town knew it not.

They prejudged them *by the seeing of the eye and the hearing of the ear* when God's way was to know no man after the flesh but after the spirit. This was a simple case of ignorant 'mob law', where the people believed the biased viewpoints of the spokesman. Paul and Silas were placed in the inner prison and their feet were fastened in stocks. . . they were not going anywhere in the natural. . . hear that in the spirit, wonderful! As we go further into the Lord from *the Outer Court to the Holiest of All* via *the Holy Place*, we shall see our 'natural' man becoming more and more restrained. This will result in pure praise and true worship.

However in this Thyatira prison, they knew the sovereignty of God and that He was Lord and thus had control over everything — even of trials, judgments and sentencings. They rested in the fact that they were prisoners of the Lord Jesus Christ, not of the Thyatira officials. Natural-minded man wanted to silence them, believing that their words would disrupt the town's previously undisputed beliefs. The authorities had to hide them somehow and had them put in the inner prison. To Paul and Silas's understanding in the spirit, they were in the secret place of the Most High . . . shut in with God. The body can be restricted by circumstances, but the spirit can never be. *'Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has set you free . . .'*

At midnight, Paul and Silas moved in their liberty, prayed and sang praises to God. They were not singing **about** Him but **to** Him. They were therefore worshipping the Lord and they were not doing it quietly for the other prisoners heard them. They more than likely prayed for the other prisoners, the jailer and not themselves, for they knew that their own times were in God's hand . Psalm 22:3 declares that *the Lord inhabits the praises of His people*. They worshipped because they believed.

Just after midnight there was an earthquake. The epi-centre of this earthquake was right under their prison where the prayer and praise had come from. The precise effect was that no one was hurt and all prisoners were liberated. The foundations of their restricting place were shaken. Religious society has very weak foundations that God is beginning to shake in this midnight hour! Foundations are weak when there has not been a *proving of all things and a holding fast to that which is truth/life*. Man's teachings

make for weak foundations. The Lord has said, Yet once more and I will shake the heavens (your religious thinking) and the earth (your natural reasonings). If we are to go on unto perfection, which is likened to building, then the true foundations need only be laid once.

The Superintendent (Pastor?) of the prison — it was his paid duty to be there all the time — suddenly woke up (glory!). Everything concerning his security has just crumbled. “Has everybody left me?” . . . “I’ve failed!” . . . such reactions quickly surfaced. The true ministry of the hour, surrounded by darkness, knew *by the Spirit* his needs and spoke clearly to him. He was saved from himself — his own wrong thinking. It was at **midnight** that God’s chosen vessels in the inner prison prayed and worshipped God. The prison keeper and his whole household were saved because God gave Paul and Silas revelation as to what this man was thinking. They declared it and God moved. They too were also set free.

It is in this midnight time that a new day has begun that will see God move in a setting of prayer and worship from those who are the prisoners of our Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation came to this household, not by preaching or even by parroting the sinners prayer, but by a revelation of Christ to that jailer. That revelation came to him when Paul and Silas declared the word that the Spirit spoke within them. Let us be aware that within us is also a word of revelation that will allow the Lord to show Himself to those who He is drawing.