



**Acts**  
**16:25-34**  
New International Version  
1984 (NIV1984)

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.<sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

<sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

<sup>31</sup> They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." <sup>32</sup> Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. <sup>33</sup> At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. <sup>34</sup> 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 household.



# SERMON NOTES

## ✧ BAPTISM LIFE ✧

*Outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace*

Facing Reality

**Uncontrollable Power** (God, earthquake, death)

**Overwhelming Fear** (Emptiness, Sin, judgment)

**Unexpected Grace** (forgiveness, kindness)

✧ **Baptism is a CONVICTION – I NEED**

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

*"Baptism separates the tire kickers from the car buyers."* M. Lucado

✧ **Baptism is a CONVERSION – I AM**

The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:36-39

✧ **Baptism is a CHALLENGE - I WILL BECOME**

*He was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God*

*With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ*

# The Sanctuary Choir

## COME TO THE WATER

By John B. Foley

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water. And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord: without money, without price. Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?

And let all who seek, let them come to the water. And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord: without money, without strife. Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?

And let all who toil, let them come to the water. And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord: all who labor, without rest. How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord?

And let all the poor, let them come to the water, Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord: bring the children without might. Easy the load and light: come to the Lord.

## The Ways to Self-knowledge

"Know yourself" is good advice. But to know ourselves doesn't mean to analyze ourselves. Sometimes we want to know ourselves as if we were machines that could be taken apart and put back together at will. At certain critical times in our lives it might be helpful to explore in some detail the events that led us to our crises, but we make a mistake when we think that we can ever completely understand ourselves and explain the full meaning of our lives to others.

Solitude, silence, and prayer are often the best ways to self-knowledge. Not because they offer solutions for the complexity of our lives but because they bring us in touch with our sacred center, where God dwells. That sacred center may not be analyzed. It is the place of adoration, thanksgiving, and praise.