

## E-Series

### Making a Joyful Noise (Prelude)



*They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar 21 by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice." 22 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. 25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 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.—Acts 16:20-26*

---

I doubt I would have been in the mood to sing. Paul and Silas had just been arrested, unjustly charged, stripped, beaten severely and then thrown in jail. And what did they do? They prayed and sang. I'm sure I would have been feeling sorry for myself, complaining, and trying to contact a good attorney, but that's not what Paul and Silas did. After all of the ridicule, physical abuse and imprisonment, they still had enough left in them to sing hymns to God.

I've often marveled at that. I've also been bewildered at what happened next. There was an earthquake. The whole prison shook, and the doors flew open.

There's something about our singing and praise that opens doors and sets us free.

This Sunday we will be talking about singing, why it's important, why we do it when we gather together. Do you sing? How important is singing and music and worship? I'd love to hear your thoughts. You can reply to this message or you can go to [www.michaelaturner.net](http://www.michaelaturner.net) and post your thoughts about singing for everyone to see. I look forward to hearing from you.

Pastor Michael

