



**SERIES: JANUARY – BECOMING SPIRITUALLY FIT**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Friday, 01/21/2022**

**Scripture: Acts 16:22-25**

**TITLE: Anytime Anywhere**

When do you most feel like worshipping God? When do you feel inclined to praise Him? For me, it's when I get blessed. Whether it's a free meal, a bill paid, or a special gift of any kind. It's in those moments that I feel like singing the praise of God. But I don't feel like praising Him when I'm hurting. I don't want to worship Him when life is falling apart. It's in those moments I want to pout. I want to fix it. I want a way out.

But did you know we can and should praise God anytime and anywhere? It's true. Listen to this amazing story from Acts 16:22-25 (CSB).

The crowd joined in the attack against them, and the chief magistrates stripped off their clothes and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had severely flogged them, they threw them in jail, ordering the jailer to guard them carefully. Receiving such an order, he put them into the inner prison and secured their feet in the stocks. About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Can you believe it? I mean, first of all, Paul and Silas are doing what they were called to do. They were preaching the Gospel. They weren't out rioting. They weren't out looting. They weren't out throwing eggs on people's cars. They were simply doing ministry. And the response was not good. The people got angry. They were arrested. They were flogged. And if that wasn't enough, they were put in jail and locked up.

If it were me, I'd be done. I'd pack my bags and go home. I'd say, "I didn't sign up for this. I'm here being God's servant, and this is the thanks I get?" But that's not what they do. They do an acapella worship service. It's the original Pentatonix but prison style.

You see, they knew that they could and should worship God anytime and anywhere. The circumstances didn't drive their actions. Their situation didn't change their posture. Instead, they praised God because it was all about God, His promises, and His faithfulness that mattered.

How about you? How does your situation impact how you view God? How does it drive how you behave? If you're like me, when life gets tough, I want to cope through selfish behavior. But Paul and Silas demonstrate that we should worship God in all circumstances.

So here's my challenge for you: Worship Him. I don't know what situation you're facing today. Chances are you weren't just flogged and thrown into jail. But you may be facing a joy-stealing diagnosis. You may be facing an eviction or a lay-off. You may be facing a promotion!

Today, praise Him – worship God in all circumstances. What is it about God and His promises that bring you hope in the situation? Focus on that and lift up your praise. The praise of Paul and Silas changed their captor's hearts.

Just imagine what God will do with you in your circumstance. So praise Him today.