

Hidden Reasons

It is important to keep in mind that not everything that happens to you is just about you. It is also about those around you, and how you and they interact. In **Acts 16**, the Apostle Paul, together with Silas, healed a girl who was possessed by a demon. Obviously a great blessing from God for her. Those who had been using her to make money as a fortune teller, were angry at Paul and Silas, so they were arrested and thrown into prison. Not such a pleasant experience for Paul and Silas.

† **Acts 16:25** *About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.*

While in prison, these Godly men did not spend their time lamenting how God had treated them so poorly after healing the girl. We might say they made the best of the situation, and praised God. As a result, the other prisoners were given a chance to hear God's Word, and the jailer, together with his family, received the greatest of blessings. (**Acts 16:25-34**) What a blessing! Paul and Silas recognized that this was not just about themselves, and they used the situation in which they found themselves to praise God and tell others about salvation in Jesus.

Your life experiences will not always show apparent blessings. Nevertheless, God can and does use each event of your life to shape you and those around you. God be praised! You may never know the results of your experiences, painful though they may be, but you can be assured that God is using them for blessings to you and those around you. Never underestimate the power of God to bless! Live in him, with him, for him.

Your life is not your own. Your life is your personal ministry to God.