

Sunday 23rd June 2013 TOOLS FOR MISSION

Acts 16:16-36

INTRODUCTION

In today's terms, missionary work can easily be viewed as distant and removed, involving little personal decision or commitment for Christians in the inner city. Jahaziel Elliott of Eden Network shares 3 tools from the example of Paul and Silas for engaging in missionary work through Jesus Christ in a society much like ours.

1. Mission

After speaking about his EDEN team Jahaziel looked at **Matt 28:18-20** and addressed us ALL as missionaries.

- a) How do you feel about being called a missionary and why?
- b) How does a Christian become a missionary?
- c) Look at Matt 28:18-20 and consider in what way can our
 - i. hearts and minds
 - ii. and everyday lives

be more missional like Paul and Silas?

2. Faithfulness & Joyfulness

In Acts 16:16-18 Paul rebuked the spirit that seemed to *promote* their mission.

- a) How could this "herald" have helped or detracted from their mission to preach the gospel?
- b) How much do personal goals determine how you respond to opportunities to serve Jesus Christ: within the church, at work, at home, in your community
- c) Consider Paul and Silas's experience in Acts 16: 22-24. How would you feel and respond if you knew you were being ill treated for the sake of the gospel?
- d) Consider the words of Jesus in Luke 21:12-19 and discuss your thoughts about them?

3. Effectiveness

- a) Look at Acts 16:25-34, highlight as many different things that you might regard as evidence of effectiveness in ministry?
- b) In what ways must we be careful when attempting to define effectiveness and why?

CONCLUSION

Mission is our business wherever we (the church) are. The challenge is to continue proclaiming Jesus faithfully, joyfully and as He will have us do. If carried out in the power of the Holy Spirit there are no bounds to the limit of effectiveness for Jesus

PRAYER

John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Pray for the grace to be and remain faithful, joyful and effective in co-mission with Jesus.