

In The Dark--part 1
"The Life of Paul" episode 21
Acts 16:16-40

"It is always upon human weakness and humiliation,
not human strength and confidence,
that God chooses to build His Kingdom.

And He uses us not merely in spite of our helplessness and
disqualifying infirmities, but precisely because of them."
Scottish preacher James Stewart

Few have experienced the degree of suffering that Paul endured. The apostle frankly admitted that it was nearly unbearable: "we were burdened excessively, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death." (2 Corinthians 1:8-9)

The story of Paul's severe beating and imprisonment in Philippi reveals startling lessons about what God is doing (part 1) and how we should respond (part 2).

1. God is more than w _____ to have us s _____
simply to bring _____ person to himself.

See also Philippians 1:13-14, 29-30

☞ Don't value your physical relief over another's spiritual relief.

2. God does some of his best work _____.

Philippians 2:17

† Trust God _____.

3. God says appearances are one thing;

r _____ is another.

Philippians 3:18-21

☞ Don't judge your story in the middle.