



## I. INTRO/REVIEW

A. It's through faith and patience that we inherit the promises

**Hebrews 6:11-12 (TPT)** <sup>11</sup> But we long to see you passionately advance until the end and you find your hope fulfilled. <sup>12</sup> So don't allow your hearts to grow dull or lose your enthusiasm, but follow the example of those who fully received what God has promised because of their strong faith and patient endurance.

B. Waiting is never a fun season

**Psalms 40:1-2 (TPT)** I waited and waited and waited some more, patiently, knowing God would come through for me, Then, at last, he bent down and listened to my cry. <sup>2</sup> He stooped down to lift me out of danger from the desolate pit I was in, out of the muddy mess I had fallen into. Now he's lifted me up into a firm, secure place and steadied me while I walk along his ascending path.

**Psalms 40:3 (TPT)** A new song for a new day rises up in me every time I think about how he breaks through for me! Ecstatic praise pours out of my mouth until everyone hears how God has set me free. Many will see his miracles; they'll stand in awe of God and fall in love with him!

C. Resisting the urge for "normal"

- Just because you don't currently see it doesn't mean you'll never have it
- There may be times you'll have to sing a new song before you see a new day

## II. THE PROBLEM WITH A "NEW DAY"

A. A new day starts at night, when there's the least light

**Acts 16:22-24 (TLB)** <sup>22</sup> A mob was quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the judges ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden whips. <sup>23</sup> Again and again the rods slashed down across their bared backs; and afterwards they were thrown into prison. The jailer was threatened with death if they escaped, <sup>24</sup> so he took no chances, but put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet into the stocks.

B. Just because God is for you doesn't mean nothing will come against you

- The proof of the power and the presence of God is not the absence of attack but the ability of the believer to withstand it.

**Acts 16:25-26 (TLB)** <sup>25</sup> Around midnight, as Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to the Lord—and the other prisoners were listening— <sup>26</sup> suddenly there was a great earthquake; the prison was shaken to its foundations, all the doors flew open—and the chains of every prisoner fell off!

C. Suddenly was preceded by waiting

- Paul called to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles
  - Midnight represents darkness and darkness represents confusion



D. Suddenly was preceded by praying and singing

- If you learn the melody in the light of day you'll have it in your heart when midnight comes

**Lamentations 3:20-23 (NLT)** <sup>20</sup> **I will never forget** this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. <sup>21</sup> Yet I still dare to hope when **I remember this:** <sup>22</sup> The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. <sup>23</sup> Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

**Psalm 103:1-5 (TPT)** With my whole heart, with my whole life, and with my innermost being, I bow in wonder and love before you, the holy God! <sup>2</sup> Yahweh, you are my soul's celebration. How could I ever forget the miracles of kindness you've done for me? <sup>3</sup> You kissed my heart with forgiveness, in spite of all I've done. You've healed me inside and out from every disease. <sup>4</sup> You've rescued me from hell and saved my life. You've crowned me with love and mercy. <sup>5</sup> You satisfy my every desire with good things. You've supercharged my life so that I soar again like a flying eagle in the sky!

### III. MORE THAN A MIDNIGHT MIRACLE

A. We love to preach about the midnight miracle of deliverance but there's more

**Psalm 40:2 (TPT)** He stooped down to lift me out of danger from the desolate pit I was in, out of the muddy mess I had fallen into. Now he's lifted me up into a firm, secure place and steadied me while I walk along his ascending path.

B. The ascending path

- The miracle isn't what happened at midnight but what happened after midnight

**Acts 16:27-31 (TLB)** <sup>27</sup> The jailer wakened to see the prison doors wide open, and assuming the prisoners had escaped, he drew his sword to kill himself. <sup>28</sup> But Paul yelled to him, "Don't do it! We are all here!" <sup>29</sup> Trembling with fear, the jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He brought them out and begged them, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> They replied, "Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, and your entire household."

C. Can you sing in the dark?

- It was what Paul had put in his heart before midnight that gave him the hymn to sing when midnight hit.