

## HOW CAN YOU SING AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

Text: Acts 16:16-25

INTRO: Note that Paul & Silas had done nothing wrong, yet they had been beaten with rods, cast into the inner prison, and placed in stocks. When others would have been screaming their protests and demanding their rights, Paul & Silas were singing hymns to God. How could they sing at a time like that?

### I. IN TIMES OF ADVERSITY, WE CAN SING BECAUSE WE WORSHIP A LIVING, VICTORIOUS GOD.

A. A few years ago a professor announced that “God is dead.” Does anyone remember that professor’s name?

B. When John wrote the book of Revelation, the churches in Asia Minor were being severely tested & persecuted. And the worst was yet to come. John himself was exiled on the island of Patmos, away from those he loved & longed to see. But in the marvelous vision that God caused to pass before John’s eyes, John could see, and tell the world that regardless of the present adversity, God is still on the throne, & everything will be all right. READ REVELATION 4.

Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. (Luke 12:6).

### II. IN TROUBLED TIMES, WE CAN SING BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT IF THIS LIFE IS SNATCHED FROM US, THERE IS SOMETHING FAR BETTER AWAITING US ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER OF DEATH.

READ 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2 Cor. 5:1)

III. IN TIMES OF TRIBULATION, WE SING BECAUSE WE ARE  
AT PEACE WITH GOD, WE ARE AT PEACE WITH  
OURSELVES, AND AS FAR AS IS POSSIBLE, WE ARE  
AT PEACE WITH THE WORLD. READ PHIL. 4:4-9

CONCLUSION: What I am trying to communicate has been said  
better than I can say it by Mrs. C.D. Martin in the hymn, "His Eye is  
On the Sparrow."

Why should I feel discouraged,  
Why should the shadows come,  
Why should my heart be lonely,  
And long for heav'n and home,  
When Jesus is my portion?  
My constant friend is He.  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled,"  
His tender word I hear,  
And resting on His goodness,  
I lose my doubts and fears.  
Though by the path He leadeth,  
But one step I may see:  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.

Whenever I am tempted,  
Whenever clouds arise,  
When song gives place to sighing,  
When hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to Him;  
From care He sets me free;  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He cares for me.

I sing because I'm happy,  
I sing because I'm free.  
For His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, December 19, 1999