

## Outside The Box Series - **Outside The Box Worship**

### **Outside The Box –**

***Church - Tradition*** has a way of holding you to your past, which some people love. ***But it also has a way of limiting your future.***

**Evangelism - Observers or Participants?**

**Friendships -** That have the strongest relationships, have probably been through a few things together. We have a friend in Jesus!

**Great Grace -** only comes after **Great Mistake**

### **Outside The Box Worship - The Philippian Jailer Saved**

**Acts 16:25-26 NKJV** - - <sup>25</sup> But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains were loosed.

**Acts 16:25-26 CEV** - <sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing praises to God, while the other prisoners listened. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly a strong earthquake shook the jail to its foundations. The doors opened, and the chains fell from all the prisoners.

**The Box = Self-Preservation – Pride – Arrogance - Tradition**

I find it strange sometimes that **New Converts** are often more outward worshippers than **established church people**.

**You would think** that it would be **the other way around** as people, who have been ***forgiven, redeemed, blessed*** should have **more reason to worship Him**.

But something happens when people ***“sit”*** in church.

Someone who has **just been baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit** **does not usually have these problems** as **they have no walls**.

The world we live in does not worship God.

- They unashamedly worship people.
- They worship football and baseball and Basketball teams.
- They worship Nascar Drivers.
- They worship boxers.
- They worship movie stars.

They fill stadiums with tens of thousands of people who yell and scream to the top of their lungs to cheer their favorite team on, **but when it comes to church and God**, these same people become silent and timid about lifting their voice in worship to Him.

- They seem ashamed for some reason to Worship Him.

They'll talk to their friends about just about anything when it comes to the latest ball games or TV shows or Music Concert they have been to, **but when it comes to Jesus...** they get too embarrassed to talk.

**Exodus 34:14** - <sup>14</sup> For you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, *is* a jealous God.

**Words like ...**

- **Excitement - Enthusiasm – Exhilaration – Animation - Thrill**
- Are words that usually describe the latest sports event, or music concert
- But seldom do they describe the most recent worship service in many churches.

**Why is that?**

**What is it that inhibits us?**

**What is it that keeps us from entering into worship?**

**Acts 16:16-26 CEV - Paul and Silas Are Put in Jail**

<sup>16</sup> One day on our way to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl. She had a spirit in her that gave her the power to tell the future. By doing this she made a lot of money for her owners. <sup>17</sup> The girl followed Paul and the rest of us, and she kept yelling, "These men are servants of the Most High God! They are telling you how to be saved."

<sup>18</sup> This went on for several days. Finally, Paul got so upset that he turned and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ, I order you to leave this girl alone!” At once the evil spirit left her.

<sup>19</sup> When the girl's owners realized they had lost all chances for making more money, they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them into court. <sup>20</sup> They told the officials, “These Jews are upsetting our city! <sup>21</sup> They are telling us to do things we Romans are not allowed to do.”

<sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in the attack on Paul and Silas. Then the officials tore the clothes off the two men and ordered them to be beaten with a whip. <sup>23</sup> After they had been badly beaten, they were put in jail, and the jailer was told to guard them carefully. <sup>24</sup> The jailer did as he was told. He put them deep inside the jail and chained their feet to heavy blocks of wood.

**The Philippian Jailer Saved** - <sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing praises to God, while the other prisoners listened. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly a strong earthquake shook the jail to its foundations. The doors opened, and the chains fell from all the prisoners.

**You don't know who your worship will set free...**

- There are people who come in here bound up by the afflictions of their life and **they need to hear Paul and Silas worship**.
- They need to know that **deliverance is available** to them!

**Paul and Silas took their praise and worship outside the Box.**

- They **understood** the box.
- They were **tied to** the box.
- They were **chained** to the box.
- Their box was **built to contain them**.
- Their box was **designed to keep them in**.
- **But** their **Praise and their Worship** took them outside the box.

**I don't know what labels are on the walls of your Box today, but you need to know that you don't have to keep your worship inside the box.**

- Understand something, **God loves Praise**.
- He loves **to be worshipped**.

Psalm 22:3 - 3 But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.

Here is the reason **Paul and Silas** were able to ***break out of the Roman Jail***.

- Their God could not be constrained.
- He is a God who is bigger than their situation.
- He is stronger than the enemy who sought to destroy them.
- The scriptures tell us that the Earth is the Lords and the fullness thereof,
- So... that little Roman jail was not big enough or strong enough to hold them in once they started praising Him.

***But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.***

- Little bitty jail cell...**Great Big God!!!**
- Little bitty Box...**Great Big God!!!**
- Little bitty situation...**Great Big God!**

***Your situation is not nearly as big as the God that we worship around here.***

**Paul and Silas found out that Praise and Worship – Has the tendency to**

- Release you from whatever it is the enemy has built around you.
- That's intended to keep you from -
- Experiencing God's delivering power.

I talked a few weeks ago about **David** and how he brought the Ark of God back into Jerusalem.

**How many of you remember how he did it?**

- He did it with Worship.
- He did it with shouts of praise.
- He did it with dancing.
  
- He didn't care what other people thought of him.
- He didn't care what his relatives thought.

He lay down in robes of royalty and went to praising and worshipping the God that he served.

- His God was bigger than other people's expectations of him as king.
- His God was more worthy of demonstrative praise rather than what a few others thought of him.

His praise went outside the box.

- His worship left the confines of tradition and other people's expectations.
- The only thing that mattered to David was whether God was pleased with his worship.
- Even his wife could not constrain his outburst of praise.

A church that has Out of the Box worship is an exciting church.

- It's a church that is fun.
- It's a church that has more than a musical performance.
- It's a church where the Spirit of God can move and minister to people –
- long before the sermon or altar call.

It's a church where people walk away saying, that was Good Church!

A missionary to Russia told me years ago that the people in the underground churches would have to sit on their hands so that they would not clap them during service.

- If they were caught worshipping God in the service, they would be taken out and shot.
- SO, they would sit on their hands because they knew that when the presence of God came into the room, they would not be able to contain their worship – even at the threat of death.

IF Christianity is the transformation of rebels into worshipers of God

- Then it is imperative for the Christian to know and understand what constitutes biblical worship.

Webster Dictionary's meaning of worship (adore, idolize, esteem worthy, reverence, etc.).

Defining worship proves difficult *because it is both an attitude and an act.*

A biblical concept of worship involves praising God and giving Him glory –

- with our lips and our lives, with our words and our deeds,
- with our physical bodies and our spiritual hearts.

Worship that *pleases God is authentic, offered with clean hands and a pure heart.*

CLOSE:

*Is anyone here today who has decided that whatever the cost, “I’m going to worship God”?* Whatever people think or say about me –

- “My praise will not stay in the box.”
- “I’ve come to worship the one who delivered me from my sins.”

Are there any David’s here today?

Is there a Paul or a Silas here today?

I don’t know about you, but I believe The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords deserves a whole lot more praise than the latest Super Bowl winner or the latest World series winner or the latest whatever.

- He deserves our praise. He deserves our worship.
- He went to the Cross of Calvary and paid the price for my sin and your sin and for that reason alone; He alone deserves my worship and my praise.

Out of the Box worship does not just happen in church.

It’s all week long.

It’s in our hearts when we wake up on Monday.

It’s a song on our lips as we go through our day.

It’s the prayer we pray as we drive to work or our job.

It’s attitude towards Springfield and our commitment to our church/city.

It’s our witness to other people.

It’s our love for each other.