

May 8, 2022

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Paul and Silas

Acts 16:16-34

The topic this morning is trouble! This is a topic I seem to know well. Being a character or a mischievous person does not help. I have been in big trouble, small trouble, good or bad trouble. Thinking about it, I did not realize that trouble was such a wide topic. This is a topic I wished that my pastor spoke more about when I was younger. It may have helped. So, I will try to do it justice this morning.

We often think of trouble as the result of when we do something bad or wrong. Which it certainly is. However, trouble can actually be the result of something good that you did. This is called good trouble. Paul and Silas actually experience it in this morning's reading. Paul did something good by removing an evil spirit from the tormented slave girl. Paul removes the spirit to give the girl some peace in her life. Most people would think that this was a good thing. It actually was. Yet the results caused trouble. The girl's master was very upset about

the removal of the evil spirit. When the evil spirit was in the girl, she made a lot of money for her master. Her master got very upset and had Paul and Silas put in jail. Paul and Silas did something very good, but they got put in jail for it. When you explain it like this it makes no sense.

So this is good trouble. I sometimes say when something like this happens, “that no good deed goes unpunished.” That certainly seems very true in good trouble situations. Sometimes doing the right thing has a very high price attached to it. Yet we do the right thing anyway. We do the right thing because it is the right thing to do.

I remember a story from the Olympics recently. Where a championship runner stopped to help pick up another runner who fell. The runner who stopped to help did not care about their place in the finish of the race. To them it was much more important to help another person that was in trouble. The person who helped the other runner finished far behind where she was expected to place in the race. The runner that fell was taken to safety on the sidelines. This is a beautiful story about doing what is right because it was the right thing to do. The only trouble that the helpful runner may have gotten into was the loss of money and endorsements from sponsors.

In our reading Paul and Silas give witness to the fact that they are Christians. They got arrested and beaten. After all that their jailor finds them praying and singing psalms in their cell. The jailor is moved by

their incredible faith. In the end he is converted to Christianity by Paul and Silas. Then he has his whole household baptised and they now Christians. I think that the earthquake helped to convince the jailor. It worked in Paul and Silas favour. Giving witness to others can be as simple as singing and giving praise to God. This can happen anywhere. After all that happened to Paul and Silas they were still able to witness to other people.

Take courage when good trouble happens to you. Keep in mind that you are doing what is right. All things happen for a reason and a purpose. Know that you can give witness to others anywhere and in the most unusual places. We are the hands, ears and eyes of the Holy Spirit here on earth. The Holy Spirit is inside of us because we are temples of the Holy Spirit. It leads us into good trouble and to give witness as it did with Paul and Silas.

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers, moms and grandmothers in our parish. May the Lord bless you all with health, happiness and laughter in the coming year. Pastor D.