Title: God is sovereign, He is good and He is near. Philippians 4:4-5

**“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, Rejoice! Let your kindness be evident to all. The Lord is near.” Philippians 4:4-5**

**Perspective:**

1) “It’s **how** you see **what** you see in the midst of what you’re **going through** that will **get** you through.”

2) Are you ready to believe that God is **sovereign**, He is **good** and He is **near**?

3) When **praise** is the last thing that comes naturally to us and we choose to **worship Him** anyway, we’ve had the privilege of offering a genuine **sacrifice of praise**.

4) “Don’t get into **fruitless discussion** about **where** the pressure is coming from. The pressure either comes from the Potter shaping the clay or through the fingers of the Potter for a **purpose**: His purpose for you and to glorify His Kingdom.”

**Acts 16:16-24** “Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit came out of her.”

When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.

The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet into the stocks.”

**Acts 16:25** “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.”

**Acts 16:26-28** “Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But, Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

**Acts 16:29-34**: “The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved-you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God-he and his whole family.