

STUDY 3 || *ACTS 15:36-16:40 & PHILIPPIANS*

# GOSPEL WINS

Allowing yourself to be captured by the enemy can sometimes be a worthwhile tactic to achieve a greater goal. In *Hogan's Heroes*, Jack and his fellow prisoners in Stalag 13 deliberately stayed behind bars to help others find their freedom. They knew the value of playing the long game, even if it meant serving time. The win isn't avoiding prison, it's accomplishing your ultimate goal. (Loki in *The Avengers* adopts a similar strategy.)

What inglorious 'time' have you been willing to serve in order to achieve a much more glorious end?







8. Thinking back to what Paul and Silas did while in prison, did their actions match his later words (in Acts 16:25-32)?

9. If all that matters to Paul is the progress of the gospel, why do you think he so pointedly forced the magistrates to publicly acquit him in Acts 16:35-40? (Hint: What effect might Paul's public acquittal have had for the young Philippian church?)

Different cultures around the world think of very different things as 'wins'. For example, Baby boomers and millennials may have very different definitions of what makes a good job. Or a working class man from Brisbane may have a very different definition of a good weekend to an upper class Japanese woman.

10. Take a second to think about your cultural background. What kinds of things do those influences define as a win in life?

11. How might we need to re-train our thinking in order to be more influenced by the Holy Spirit than by our culture? What possible lifestyle choices might a Christian in 21st century Brisbane make that reflect that same definition of a win?

Pray for MPC that together as a church we would partner in getting the gospel out, and that that would be our definition of a win.