



WHFC Summer
Part 4 – Praises at Midnight
Rene Schlaepfer

How are y'all doing? What a weird year so far, right? I was talking to a woman on our staff and she said if one word could summarize how she has felt so far about 2020, it's the word *disorienting*. Can you relate to that? It's just been a disorienting year in so many ways: The Coronavirus, political tensions, racial tension. We're all feeling a little bit off balance, so what are we going to do about that?

We live on a coast of California in a beach town named Santa Cruz. This is actually a picture of where we live. A lot of the places in California... All the stereotypes of California surfers and hippies and beaches and palm trees and red woods are not true. In Santa Cruz, every single stereotype you've ever had about California is true... in spades.

For example, I was learning to stand up paddle board from my friend Wit. Wit is kind of a legendary local surfer who actually talks exactly like Crush the turtle in Finding Nemo. I am not making this up. "Dude, I'm so totally stoked you want to learn to SUP."

I'm like, "What did you just say?"

That's exactly how he talks. So, when we go out, Wit tells me... It was a little bit choppy on the ocean. He goes, "Bro, it's messy today, dude. You're gonna to get worked. Head into the soup if you're not on it."

I said, "Wit, I know you're trying to communicate with me. What did you just tell me?"

He says, "Um, you will get all disoriented and fall into the water unless you fix your focus on something unchanging like a building on shore or the lighthouse or something stable like that." I tried it and it really works. As Wit would say, "It's totally ricas." I have no idea what that means, but he says it all the time.

But the same exact principle is true spiritually. Life right now is very disorienting, so today, I'm going to suggest that you refocus on three things, three concepts from the Bible that will stabilize your paddle board as the waves buck you and try to knock you off, and you see all three of these things in today's story from the Bible. I call it *Praises at Midnight* – Acts 16.

If you have your Bible with you or your Bible app or you're watching on the livestream and you have your Bible in front of you, turn to Acts 16 right now. I love this story. I've been finding myself drawn to this story, almost magnetically, during the whole Coronavirus crisis the last few months or so because it's about people who really only want to do God's will, God's way, in God's time, and still find absolutely everything going wrong for them. And yet they show **three ways to refocus in very disorienting times**, like the ones we are in right now. I know you're going to find this relevant. The two main characters of the story are Paul and Silas and the first of three disorienting circumstances they face is what I would call...

1. The disorientation of closed doors. Have you ever faced a closed door in your life? Look at the closed door these guys faced. Look at Acts 16, starting in Verse 6. ***6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. 7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. 8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.***

What's this all about? They try to keep going through the Roman province of Asia Minor and they try to go east, and they are blocked. They try to go north, and they are blocked. We don't know exactly what it means that the doors were closed. Was it a legal thing? We don't know how they were blocked, but it says they were not able to go where they wanted to go. So, they hit one roadblock after another. What do they do next? Watch this.

9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia (modern Greece) standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. To whom? To the Men of Macedonia who were in Paul's dream.

This is not an indisputable leading? Have you ever had a sense of uncertainty where you don't know what God wants you to do? There are some closed doors and you just want to do God's will. "God, just show me a sign." Well, Paul has this dream that's not really like an angel appeared to him, it wasn't the voice of God, but they chose to see this as God's direction. So they get in a boat and for the very first time in the New Testament, somebody sets sail for the European Continent and they go to Macedonia.

My point is this: Instead of focusing on the disorienting closed doors, they **refocus on new opportunities**. They don't waste a lot of time wishing they could go there or do that or do that like they used to do in the old days. They innovate because they have to. I heard a pastor say, "*It was because they didn't get to go where they wanted to go that they ended up where they needed to be.*" Is that tongue twister for you today? Maybe you've been in grief over something in your life.

I was talking to Ted this morning and he and I were agreeing that what we're seeing in our churches and in our communities is this sense of grief. You know the stages of grief where you go through sadness, you go through anger, you go through denial, you go through bargaining. And then you repeat, and you go through these states over and over again. Any time you have a loss, your psychology experiences that as grief.

And so, everybody is going through these stages. Some are sad, some are angry, some are accepting, some are bargaining. And that's what we are experiencing right now as a culture. Maybe you've been in grief over a closed door in your life like that overseas vacation that you've been planning for years now that you didn't get to take because the virus crisis slammed the door shut on that. Or maybe that big wedding ceremony that you didn't get to have a couple of months ago because this virus slammed the door shut on that. A joy you didn't get – slam. A job you lost – slam. It's so easy to stare at the roadblock and just stop and wish things were different and get fixated on what you've lost.

But you're not stopped, you're just rerouted like when your map app calculates a new route. Every single time there is a closed door in your life, God can use it to move you to a place you may have never gone if that roadblock hadn't happened. I guarantee that's going to happen for you this year if it hasn't happened already. Because of this crisis, you develop a new habit, a new direction, a new relationship that you may have never started if not for this big, giant reroute that we are all experiencing. So, don't just look at what you lost – that's disorienting – look at the new opportunities down the road, in the distance, to do things a different way. That's what Paul and Silas do.

2. They experienced a disorientation of uncertainty. Everybody's been telling me this is the hardest thing about the virus crisis: Never knowing exactly what is going to happen next. I don't know about you, but I feel like things don't just change day to day, they change hour to hour. Never knowing what's going to be open, what's not open. What's going to be allowed, not allowed. What's going to be required, not required, advisable, not advisable about facemasks, meeting in person, about anything else. You want to see uncertainty? Check this out.

They go on their new route. They cross the ocean and they get to the first big city, Philippi. And they discover something interesting about this city. They start looking for a Jewish Synagogue because that's always the way they started their ministry. In every new city they went into, they looked for a Jewish Synagogue and started preaching there. That's the way they had done it every time... up until this moment because guess what they discovered? No synagogue. In fact, probably not even enough Jewish men in the city for there to be a synagogue, which meant there were less than 10 Jewish guys. They probably doubled the population of Jewish guys in the city just by showing up. Guess what else they discovered? You remember Paul had this dream of the man of Macedonia, right? That's why he went there. They discovered that they washed ashore in the one city in Macedonia where they are unlikely to even discover one Macedonian man.

Here's the history of Philippi. A few decades before this, Julius Caesar was assassinated, and you might remember his assassins. They assassinated him because he was the first emperor and they didn't want the Roman Empire to become an Empire; they wanted it to stay a relatively democratic republic, led by the senate. So, his assassins put together an army to take back Rome and the people supporting Julius Caesar put together an army led by Octavius and Mark Antony to take back Rome as an empire. And those two armies meet to decide the fate of Rome in Philippi. That's where those two armies come together, and Octavius and Mark Anthony are successful.

Octavius goes on to become Caesar Augustus who was Caesar when Jesus was born. And to commemorate the fact that the empire was born at Philippi, they wipe out the city, kick out every

Macedonian, and remake the whole city in the image of Rome. They spoke Latin there, Roman law when there. The people who lived there were Roman citizens. They confiscated all the property and resold it at cheap rates, off market rates to retired Roman soldiers so they could populate it with 100% Romans.

So, Paul and his companions find closed door after closed door after closed door. He has a dream about a man of Macedonia. They go, "It must be God's will calling us there." They show up and there is not one Macedonian person in the city, in fact, they are not even welcome. So, I'm sure they're like, "What are we even doing here? Didn't God give us a vision for moving here. Didn't we feel like we were doing God's will when we moved here for this job? And now nothing is working out." As my friend Wit would say, "This is totally bogus." So, what are they going to do?

13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. Now, I don't think they even found that. Instead, they find some women doing laundry. ***We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.*** So, they don't find Jewish men, they don't find Macedonian men. What they do find are Asian Gentile women and so they go with that.

14 One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. Why in the world is this detail in there? Because purple dye was made from shellfish and shellfish were considered unclean, not kosher under Jewish, religious law. ***She was a worshiper of God.*** That meant she was attracted to the God of the Bible, to monotheism, to the Jewish Bible, but her occupation dealing with shellfish kept her from ever becoming a Jewish convert in those days.

The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. I guess so. To the gospel message that we are saved by grace and not by law. And Lydia becomes the first person on the European continent in the Bible to ever believe in Jesus Christ. And she begins a trend of very influential Gentile women becoming believers in the early church.

Let me just take a little history geek side detour here. This is very important historically. Sociologist Rodney Stark, who is an expert on why Christianity grew and overtook the Roman Empire, says the key factor was its embrace by Gentile women who found Roman paganism demeaning to women. And these wealthy Gentile women like Lydia basically became the venture capitalists who funded the growth of the early church.

You see, Paul never would have found Lydia, he never would have started this trend if his original plans hadn't been frustratingly thwarted again and again and again. This shows me how to deal with uncertainty. I need to **refocus on my core purpose**. If you think about it, Paul's purpose never changed. Spread the good news. Paul's tactics had to change. No Jewish men, no Macedonia men? Let's go to the Gentile women. Here's the transferable principle: **Don't confuse changeable tactics with unchanging purpose**. Do you get the distinction?

Here at Woodland Hills... You guys have such a cool church! After we spoke here last year, I went home and told like everybody... I said, you have got to go online and watch this cool church that meets in an old amusement park. It's the coolest thing ever. You guys basically do church in the setting for half the

Scooby Doo episodes I've ever seen. And in an abandoned amusement park; it's so cool. Lots of amazing ministries happen in these buildings. Look around, you've had to limit attendance and social distance rows so that the church has to be half full. But, is your purpose as a church thwarted? No!

Now, let me make you uncomfortable. What if, theoretically – we never know what's going to happen in the future, especially now – there was some Branson outbreak of the virus and your ability to meet here was once again shut down? What happens then? Is your purpose as a church thwarted then? Not one bit! Because your unchanging purpose is not to fill buildings. That's a tactic. Your unchanging purpose is to be building into lives. Your purpose as a church never changes no matter what happens. Your tactics have to change all the time. In your life, there is a lot of uncertainty right now. God's purpose for your life is clear as ever; it's unchanging – to grow in Christlike character and to touch others with Christ's love.

Don't confuse clarity with certainty. Ted and I were talking before this about how both of us were raised in a religious background where we were taught that the way to make any kind of a decision was to wait until absolute certainty. You want to get married? You want to move? You want to start a job? You want to go into the ministry? You want to go on a mission trip? Whatever it is, you have to pray and get God's absolute, 100% leading or you don't go. Don't go if you don't get a leading. And some people get leadings all the time. Me, I hardly ever get leadings. So, what happened was I got paralysis by analysis so that I never did anything because I never felt like I had certainty. Until somebody explained this distinction to me. You can have 100% clarity even when you have zero certainty. You can have total clarity, clarity about your purpose, clarity about God's love for you, clarity about your eternal destiny. That's the steady horizon that you look at when the waves are rocking the paddle board.

That really brings us back to the story. Here's where things really go south in a hurry and

3. They face the disorientation of crisis. This situation just devolves into total, complete chaos. Watch this.

16 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. So, she's a slave. There was a horrible human trafficking situation. ***17 She 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."*** Her endorsement is not helping. ***Finally Paul became so annoyed 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 left her.*** Are her owners happy for her? Her master's hopes of wealth were now shattered.

19 When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. Remember, this is a Roman city. This whole city is in an uproar because of what? These Jews! Definite racism, definite anti-Semitism happening here. ***20 They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar 21 by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."*** That wasn't true, so there's slander.

And then watch this. In a world before Twitter, there were still Twitter mobs because there has been this slander against them that's this inciting slander and everybody just jumps on it.

22 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped... Yes, striped naked. ...and beaten with rods. These rods you can see them in museums back there. They were the size and weight of a baseball bat. Beaten with baseball bats.

23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24 When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. In those days, the inner cell of a prison was the central drain of a prison. It's where the only drain was in the prison that went down to the sewage system so that meant all the raw human waste was hosed off with pails and it all went down to the central room. So, Paul and Silas have basically been imprisoned with all this raw flesh and these wounds in the sewer. And then he fastened their feet in the stocks, painful instruments of torture.

So, you're Paul and Silas. You're sitting in human waste. You're naked. You've just been pummeled with baseball bats, totally humiliated, complete injustice. Your name has been slandered absolutely unfairly, you've been the victim of racism, all after you were convinced God was calling you to go here and do that. How does that interpretation of that dream as God's guidance look to them now? How would it look to you? Look at what happens next. The most incredible verse in this story.

25 About midnight... I don't know about you, but for me, midnight is when all my problems seem about ten times worse. About midnight, that's when I wake up and everything is nagging me. About midnight is when all I see are problems, right? ***...Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.***

Question. What does singing praises at midnight in prison do for your orientation? Well, let me explain it to you this way. I want to show you guys something. These are zoomed in pictures of everyday objects. What do you think this is? Go ahead and shout it out. It's not a honeycomb; good guess though. This is a banana slice. Now what about this next picture. What do you think this is? Anybody have any guesses? This is the grove of a vinyl record. Remember records? They were awesome. How about this one? Any guesses about what this is? Yes, this is Velcro. You can see the hooks and the catches there. Isn't that cool? One more. What is this? It is hair. It is a human eyelash. Doesn't that make you feel disgusting about what's on your face right now?

Here's the point. When you are this close to something... Are these accurate pictures? They are 100% accurate. Do they give you an accurate representation and understanding of these objects? Not at all. You can be so close to your problems and see your problems with 100% accuracy, but the very fact that you're this close to them, at midnight, rehearsing them over and over again, creates the electron microscope factor. You're not really seeing them anymore because although you're seeing them with accuracy, you're too close. You have to zoom out to really understand.

Do you understand this is what they were doing in this prison? They're zooming out, they're refocusing on God's love through worship. And they are remembering the reality, they're getting oriented. They're

like “You know what? I’ve got problems, but God loves me and he’s worthy of my praise, and this zooms them back out so they can see the big picture a little bit better. This is not just some Bible story thing, this can happen for you today.

I was speaking in Uganda at a conference for missionaries when I had lunch with a guy who is kind of a legend over there. His name was Ron Pontiere. Ron has been an airplane pilot for missionaries in Africa; he’s been doing it for 27 years. He’s the best pilot they have over there.

A few years ago, he was captured and held hostage by radical Islamic terrorists and they publicly set the time for his execution by firing squad which was about six weeks away.

I said, “Ron, how in the world do you face a frightening future like that?”

He told me, “Rene, the first several days in captivity, I was angry, afraid, bargaining with God, going through all the stages of grief, saying things like, ‘God, how can you allow this to happen? You need me. I’m the most skilled missionary pilot in Africa and I’m not bragging, God, you know that’s true. These missionaries are spreading the gospel and they need me, so God, you’ve got to get me out of this. How could you let this happen to me?’” He said, “Rene, it was almost as if he could hear God say, ‘Need you? I could raise pilots out of the rocks if I had to. I don’t need you.’” He said it was almost as if God said to him, “All I want you to do right now is just receive my love. Just realize I’m with you and I love you. Sense my infinite love for you in this moment. Ron, you are more important to me than what you do.”

Ron told me found perfect peace. No matter what happened, he would be with the God who loves him either here on earth or in heaven. And he would sit in his cell for days and just worship God just like Paul and Silas did in prison. He said it was one of the highlights of his life.

The night before his execution, the night before, something happened to him that sounds like something right out of the Book of Acts. The area he was in, he started feeling vibrations. They got louder and louder. The area was being shelled, bombed by government forces. Then, suddenly, a whole section of the outside wall of his prison cell just fell down. Ron walked out, unharmed, right into the bush and right into the arms of government forces.

They looked at him and said, “Who are you?”

He said, “I’m the guy you just rescued!”

But really what rescued him was back in the prison cell when he was able to see himself not as superhero for God, needed around the world, but simply as child of God, loved and cared for by Him. This is where Paul and Silas were at. Is that where you’re at? Can you just sit and bathe in that love? Can you soak in it now?

I really believe that God is saying to you, “Yes, of course I have plans for your future, but do you know what you need to do right now? Just let me love you for a while. And learn to sing praises at midnight.”

So, what happens next? Well, how does the story end?

26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. 27 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. 28 But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" 29 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs...Remember how he treated them and now he's all "sirs"? ...what must I do to be saved?"

31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. 34 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 household.

None of that ministry would have happened if Paul and Silas had just given up and ground their teeth in frustration when everything was going wrong. What Paul is beginning to learn is this: **My Plan Z is often God's Plan A.** Have you learned that yet? You're Plan Z... When it seems like all the doors are closed and everything is going wrong, God's like, "Ah! Exactly according to my plan."

I learned this in living color, and I'll wrap up with this. A few years ago, when I was pastoring a church up in South Lake Tahoe, California... If you don't know the area, it's kind of like Vegas in the mountains. Casinos everywhere; it's a gambling, high living community. Well, our church up there was packed out and growing fast. I started to think where we were going to put everybody next Easter? I wrote a letter to the US Forest Service because they had a beautiful, new outdoor amphitheater. They shut me down right away. They said, "We believe in separation of church and state; we will never host a religious gathering." That's how you can tell you are in California and not in Branson, Missouri.

So, Harvey's Casino had just remodeled and they had a beautiful new showroom and convention center, so, on a whim, I wrote them a letter, "To whom it may concern, could we have church in your casino next Easter?" I didn't hear back so I thought it was a crazy idea.

Well, a couple of months later, this guy walks up to me after church. East coast Italian silk suited gold chain wearing, black hair slicked back, fingernails manicured, cologne wafting... You got the picture? He comes up to me and he says this, and it sounds exactly like... I cannot exaggerate what he sounds like.

He goes, "Hey, preach. My name is Pasqually Penna. I accepted Jesus after one of your events here a few weeks back. Totally changed my life, you know what I'm talking about?"

I said, "Yes, I do know what you're talking about, I do."

He goes, "Hey, I got your letter."

I go, "Letter?"

He goes, "Yeah, your letter to Harvey's Casino Convention Center. I'm the Director of Said Facility."

I said, "Oh, that letter. I know that's a crazy idea for a church." I'm starting to have second thoughts now for a church to have Easter services in a casino.

He goes "Don't worry about it. I'll fix you up just fine."

I said, "Well, I don't know if we can afford the rates."

He says, "Don't worry about it."

I said, "Well, actually, I haven't gotten board approval yet."

He goes, "I said don't worry about it."

I'm thinking, *Now I'm doing church with the Sopranos and I can't get out of it.*

So now I get to break this to the church, and this is an extremely conservative Baptist church. I try to burry it in announcements at the end of the service because I figure nobody ever listens to announcements anyway. So, I go, "Just one slight change of plan. This Easter, the holiest day of the year, when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, church will be closed and we're going to meet at a casino instead. Let's close in a word of prayer." Hymn books are flying, and I get angry letters, but we proceeded, mainly because I was afraid Pasqually would send over the big man to my house to break my legs if we didn't.

Harvey's Casino's slogan that year, their marketing slogan was "The party's at Harvey's." So, we put signs up all over town, "Jesus is Risen! The Party's at Harvey's." Easter morning, I'm sitting in Harvey's Casino off the edge of the stage with my new mafia friend, Pasqually. And I'm wondering if anybody is going to show up. People began to trickle in, people from all around the world staying at the hotel had heard about this idea.

I discovered later it was because some teenagers who were visiting with their parents from Los Gatos, California had heard about it. On their own initiative, they had made fliers about it the night before. They went down to Kinkos and got thousands of these fliers printed out and they were standing on the corners, just like you see maybe in downtown Branson or in Vegas, next to all kinds of people handing out fliers to all kinds of stuff and they were going, "Hey, Easter service tomorrow!"

I had no idea this had happened. So, a thousand people are there. Eleven hundred people. Twelve hundred people. We ended up having a standing room only, largest church gathering in the history of South Lake Tahoe. And it's in a casino.

But it gets better. Little did I know that Harvey's has employed a 6 ½ foot tall juggler to suit up in full costume as the Easter bunny, just like a Disney character costume. The Easter bunny head with the eyes and the ears. You can't see it's a human being in there.

He hears about the service. He asks his boss if he could take his half hour break to attend part of the church service.

His boss said, "Yeah, but you don't have time to take off your suit."

He says, "Fine, I'll just take off the head."

His boss says, "I don't want kids to look back there and see the Easter bunny decapitated with his head in his lap."

He says, "Fine, I'll just leave the whole costume on!"

His boss says, "Fine!"

And just as I'm getting ready to preach, I look back and I see the Easter bunny is tiptoeing into my church service. I'm rubbing my eyes like, *am I hallucinating; what is happening right now?*

I do the wrap up and I invite people to come forward and pray with me to receive Christ after the closing song, and people start coming forward. I look up and the Easter bunny comes forward at our Easter service. He's standing in a line to talk to me just like normal people, and he's just moving forward one person at a time. He gets up to me... He's a broken man inside the suit even through it has this bucktooth smile on the outside. He's weeping, "Pastor, I need Jesus." He puts his hand... his paw, whatever on my shoulder. It was amazing. He ends up becoming a great volunteer in our children's ministry, super involved in missions.

But what happened there, in that service? That service, by the way, changed our whole church. Like a lightbulb, they understood what outreach is all about. God just did amazing things through that event, but what happened there? My plan Z was God's Plan A all along. My Plan A was to have services at our church or have services in the beautiful forest amphitheater. God was saying, "No, you see, I've got a guy from the mob who needs to find Jesus, and I've got the Easter bunny who needs to find Jesus, and I've got a bunch of teenagers in Los Gatos, that you didn't know they were out there, but your Plan Z is my Plan A." Just like he put together Paul and Silas and a Gentile businesswoman and a slave girl and a Roman jailer. And God is at work right now behind the scenes in your life even if you can't see it.

To me, it's kind of like those dot to dot pictures you use to do as a kid. Remember dot to dots. You'd connect the numbered dots and they would make a picture. We can get so tense when we can't make the dots into a picture and it all just seems like a mess. But you see, God sees dots we don't see. God sees dots way off the page. One day, maybe not until glory, will we see how God's been behind the scenes all along, connecting dots that create a cross-century masterpiece that glorifies him. He's doing it now in your life. Believe that and you can sing praises in your midnight. Let's pray.

Whether you're joining in the Chapel or on the livestream or here in the auditorium, I just want to say what saved that jailer 2,000 years ago is what can save you today. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

I just want to give you a chance to do that right now, just the way he did 2,000 years ago. Maybe for the very first time or as a recommitment, simply pray right now, "Lord, I believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Free me from this prison that I've been in of disorientation that sometimes expresses itself in anger or in sadness or the other negative emotions. Give me a new, stable perspective, the perspective that brings freedom even before the prison doors fly open. The perspective that yes, we live in a disorienting world, but God, you are at work behind the scenes, creating a masterpiece. Help us to get the perspective that comes from those praises at midnight.

In Jesus' name we pray... Amen.