

## Ain't no Grave

**Relevant Bible Verses:** 1 Corinthians 15:53-55 ; Acts 12:1-17, 16:25-30

### Message Notes:

- We all have an appointed time. God knows when our time is; if we abuse this, our time may be sooner than we wanted, but regardless of when, he knows. Death has no power, whether it be the condition or the state. We need to recognize this as the children of God.
- Death is a byproduct of a fallen world, but it has no power over us unless we let it. God has opened the prison doors for us, but we have the choice to walk through them.
- There is no condition of death, no prison, this world can impose on us that can hold us down. Some Christians are still fighting battles, trying to break out of prisons Jesus has already opened.
- Jesus says that if you believe in him, you are already free. This is *foundational* to the Kingdom of God. No matter what we come against in this world, we are *free*.
- No matter how hard the enemy tries to crush us, he cannot do it. As water spreads out and forms new groups when it's pushed down, so we will flourish and grow under pressure.
- In Acts, Paul and Silas were not attempting to escape the prison they were in. They were singing and praying, and the doors opened. Despite the fact they could've run, they stayed and by doing so saved the prison guard's life and ministered to him. Even in the midst of oppression and pain, they were free. So are we.
- In the same book, Peter was imprisoned, and the people of God prayed. An angel appeared to Peter in the prison when he was sleeping, and woke him up. The Lord is at work, even when we are sleeping. He is still there to deliver us, he will not leave us behind. This is hard to see sometimes when we are suffering and are feeling the chains and oppression, but we need to recognize that he is already here for us.
- Whatever the enemy tries, do not fear pain. It will only make us stronger. We need to wake up to that truth. God is here to liberate us, death has no power over us. Some people rejoice in that victory, but only look at it as victory when we die, not extending that victory to this life.
- God has freed us here and now, we just need to open the door to that victory in our present life. Deliverance has already happened. We just need to open the door to allow it.