

Walking on Sunshine

THE APOSTLE PAUL'S GLORIOUS
JOURNEY TO FREEDOM



A SUMMER STROLL THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS

We can do
Better
Take it Down

















“On returning however to London, the subject of it almost wholly engrossed my thoughts. I became at times very seriously affected while upon the road. I stopped my horse occasionally, and dismounted and walked. I frequently tried to persuade myself in these intervals that the contents of my essay could not be true. The more, however, I reflected upon them, or rather upon the authorities on which they were founded, the more I gave them credit....”



“Coming in sight of Wades Mill, in Hertfordshire, I sat down disconsolate on the turf by the roadside and held my horse. Here a thought came into my mind, that if the contents of the essay were true, it was time some person should see these calamities to their end. Agitated in this manner, I reached home. This was in the summer of 1785.”

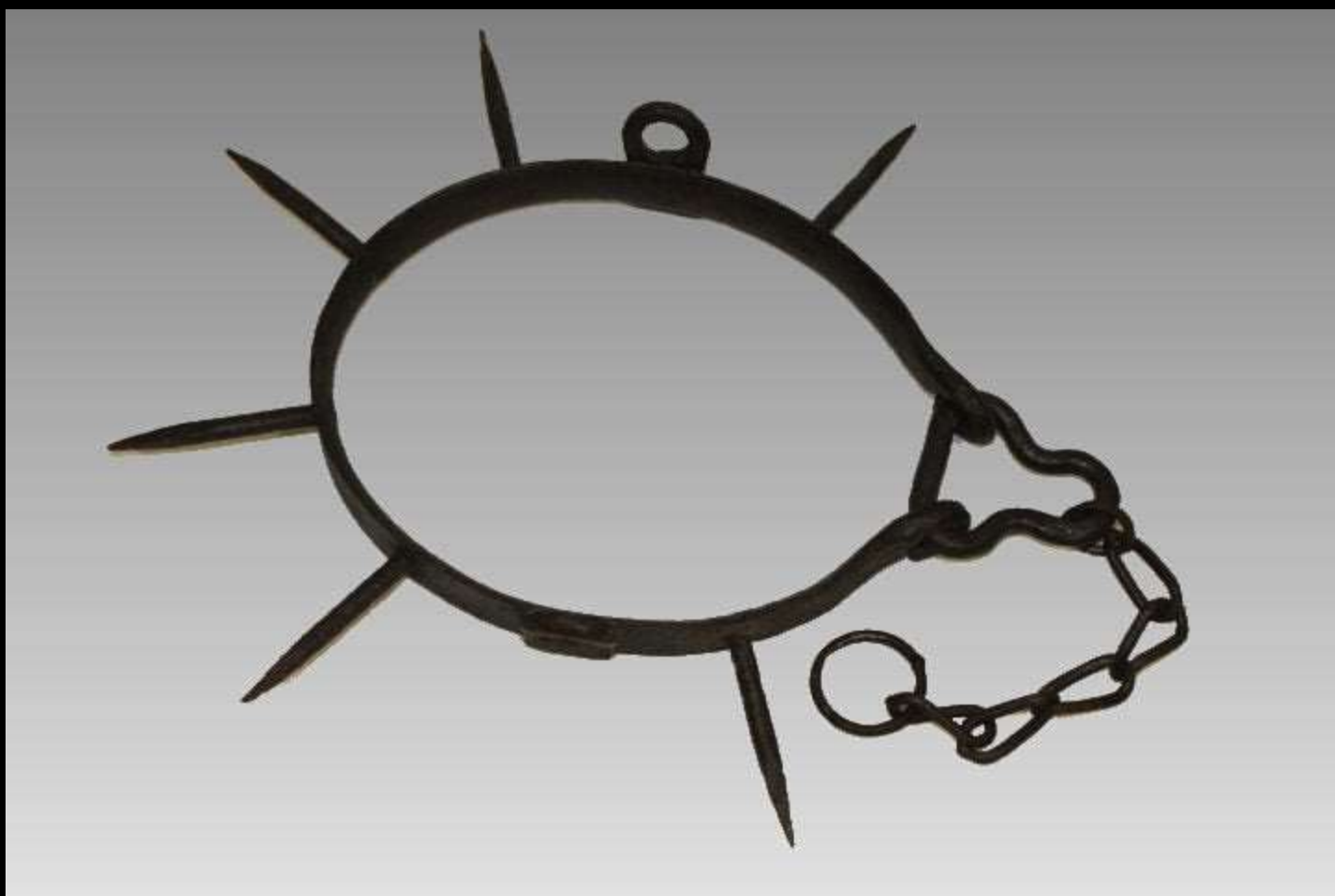
(From Thomas Clarkson's *The History of the Rise, Progress and Accomplishment of the Abolition of the African Slave-Trade, by the British Parliament*)





“I began now to tremble, for the first time, at the arduous task I had undertaken, of attempting to subvert one of the branches of the commerce of the great place which was then before me. I began to think of the host of people I should have to encounter in it. I anticipated much persecution in it also; and I questioned whether I should even get out of it alive. But in journeying on, I became more calm and composed. My spirits began to return. In these latter moments I considered my first feelings as useful, inasmuch as they impressed upon me the necessity of extraordinary courage, and activity, and perseverance, and of watchfulness, also, over my own conduct, that I might not throw any stain upon the cause I had undertaken.”

(From Thomas Clarkson's journal entry on June 27, 1787)



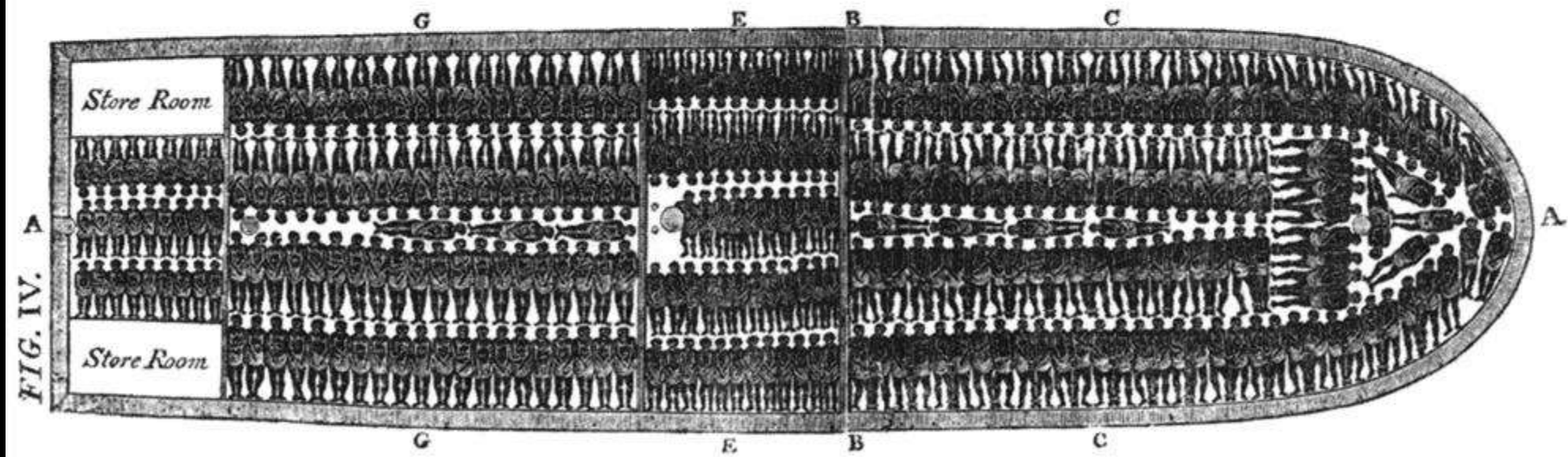
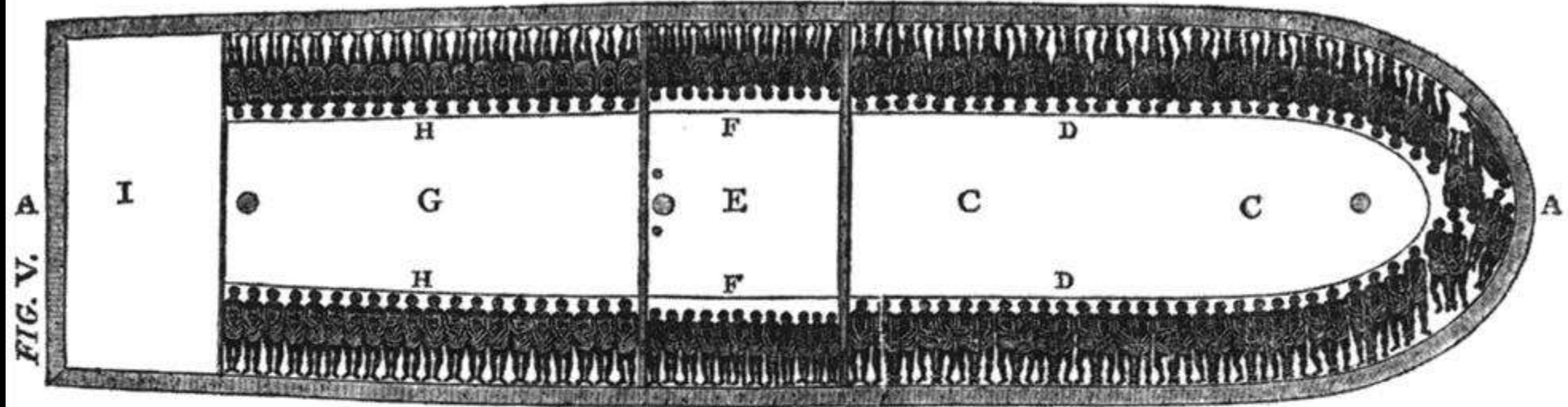


“The credit for ending slavery in the British Empire is most often given to William Wilberforce....but Thomas Clarkson was prominent among those who first proposed to Wilberforce that he be the movement’s man in Parliament. Moreover, it was the information Clarkson gathered while crisscrossing the British countryside...that Wilberforce often used in parliamentary debate. Clarkson was the mobilizer, the energizer, the fact-finder, and the very conscience of the movement.”



(From Lawrence W. Reed’s article “Thomas Clarkson: A Moral Steam Engine That Never Quit” on fee.org, September 18, 2015)









A MAN ON A ROAD WITH A QUESTION



June 9, 2019

Acts 9:1-19

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June 9, 2019

Acts 9:1-19

“If there is a single moment at which the antislavery movement became inevitable, it was the day in June 1785 when Thomas Clarkson sat down by the side of the road at Wades Mill...For his Bible-conscious colleagues, it held echoes of Saul’s conversion on the road to Damascus. For us today, it is a landmark on the long, tortuous path to the modern conception of universal human rights.”

(From Adam Hochschild’s book *Bury the Chains: Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free an Empire’s Slaves*)



Acts 9:1-2 (ESV): “But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest **2** and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.”



Acts 9:9-19 (ESV): “And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. **10** Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ And he said, ‘Here I am, Lord.’ **11** And the Lord said to him, ‘Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, **12** and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.’...”



“...**13** But Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. **14** And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.’ **15** But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. **16** For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.’...”



“...**17** So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ **18** And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; **19** and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.”





Acts 9:3-8 (ESV): “Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. 4 And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ 5 And he said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.’ 7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. 8 Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.”





Main Point:

THE

LIGHT

OF JESUS IS

HEAVY.



John 1:4-9 (ESV): “In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.”



John 8:12 (ESV): “I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.”



Matthew 17:2 (ESV): “And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.”



Revelation 21:23-24 (ESV): “And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.
24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.”



John 3:16-21 (ESV): “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God....”



“...**19** And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. **20** For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. **21** But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”



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2 Timothy 1:9-12 (NIV): “He has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, **10** but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel....”



“...**11** And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. **12** That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.”





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Acts 9:1-19

Application:

STOP ASKING

“WHAT?”

AND START ASKING

“WHY?”



Luke 15:17 (ESV): “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!’”



Ezekiel 18:28 (ESV): “Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.”



Galatians 6:4 (ESV): “But let each one test his own work.”



Ecclesiastes 5:19-20 (NIV): “Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil - this is a gift of God. **20** They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.”



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NEXT WEEK: ACTS CHAPTERS NINE AND ELEVEN