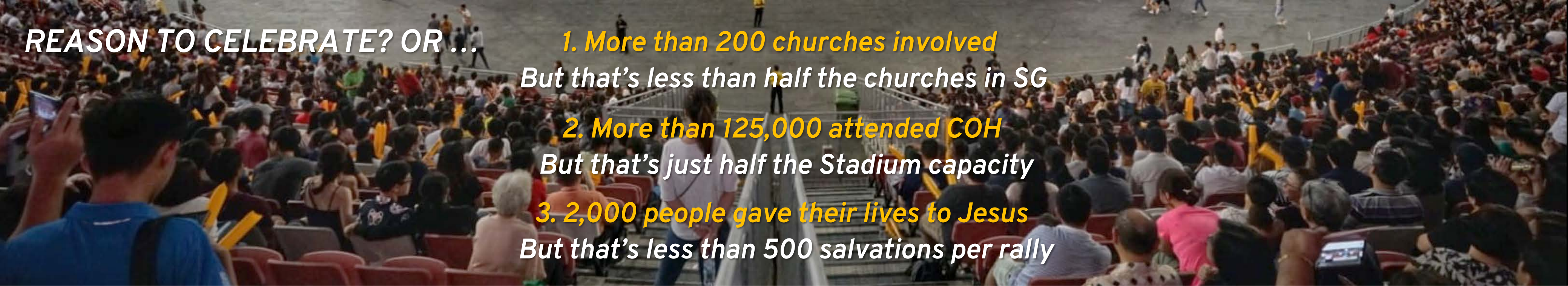




PRAISE IN THE PRISONS
(and other lessons from the Celebration of Hope)



REASON TO CELEBRATE? OR ...

1. More than 200 churches involved

But that's less than half the churches in SG

2. More than 125,000 attended COH

But that's just half the Stadium capacity

3. 2,000 people gave their lives to Jesus

But that's less than 500 salvations per rally



THERE IS HOPE!



THERE IS HOPE!





ACTS 16:9-10

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

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.

**“MACEDONIAN
CALL”**

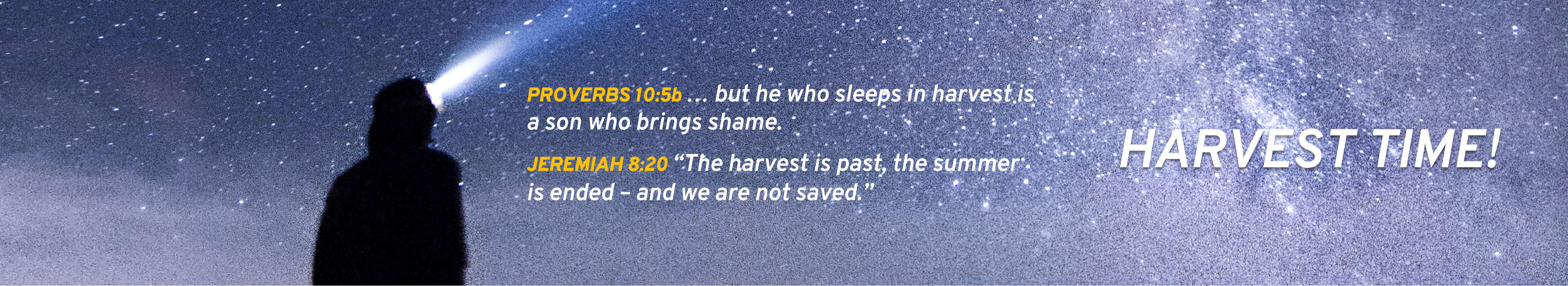


JOHN 4:35-36 Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. The one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life,

GALATIANS 6:9 Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap.

PROVERBS 10:5a He who gathers in summer is a prudent son ...

HARVEST TIME!

A silhouette of a person is shown from the side, holding a flashlight that shines a bright beam of light upwards into a dark, starry night sky. The background is filled with numerous small, bright stars, creating a sense of vastness and wonder. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

PROVERBS 10:5b ... but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.

JEREMIAH 8:20 “The harvest is past, the summer is ended – and we are not saved.”

HARVEST TIME!



***HOW WILL YOU RESPOND
WHEN YOU HEAR THE
MACEDONIAN CALL?***

ACTS 16:22-34

The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.

When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

ACTS 16:22-34

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 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.

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.

ACTS 16:22-34

Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" 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.

ACTS 16:22-34

At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptised.

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.

A person is seen from behind, standing on a beach and looking out at the ocean. The person is wearing a dark t-shirt and dark pants. The ocean is calm with gentle ripples, and the sky is a uniform light grey. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

1. *THERE IS A PRICE TO PAY FOR PUBLIC MINISTRY*

ACTS 16:22-24

The crowd joined in the attack ... Paul and Silas were stripped and beaten with rods. They were thrown into prison ... put in the inner cell with their feet fastened in the stocks.

A person is seen from behind, standing on a beach and looking out at the ocean. The person is wearing a dark t-shirt and dark pants. The ocean is calm with gentle ripples, and the sky is a pale, overcast grey. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

1. *THERE IS A PRICE TO PAY FOR PUBLIC MINISTRY*

2 TIMOTHY 3:12 *All who desire to live a godly life
in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*

PHILIPPIANS 1:29 *For it has been granted to you
that for the sake of Christ you should not only
believe in Him but also suffer for His sake.*

1. THERE IS A PRICE TO PAY FOR PUBLIC MINISTRY

1 PETER 4:12

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.



A black and white photograph of a person standing on a beach, looking out at the ocean. The person is seen from behind, wearing a dark t-shirt and pants. The ocean is calm with gentle ripples, and the horizon is visible in the distance. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

1. *THERE IS A PRICE TO PAY FOR PUBLIC MINISTRY*

2 SAMUEL 24:24

*“I insist on paying you for it. I will not
sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt
offerings that cost me nothing.”*

1. THERE IS A PRICE TO PAY
FOR PUBLIC MINISTRY

WILL YOU PAY THE PRICE?





2. THERE IS POWER IN PRAISE

ACTS 16:25-26

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 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.



2. THERE IS POWER IN PRAISE

2 CHRONICLES 20:21-24

King Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise Him for the splendour of His holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever."



2. THERE IS POWER IN PRAISE

2 CHRONICLES 20:21-24

As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. When the men of Judah ... looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped.

2. THERE IS POWER IN PRAISE



2. THERE IS POWER IN PRAISE

WILL YOU PRAISE
THROUGH YOUR PAIN?






3. THERE IS A PRIZE
FOR PERSEVERANCE

ACTS 16:34

WILL YOU PERSEVERE
FOR THE PRIZE?

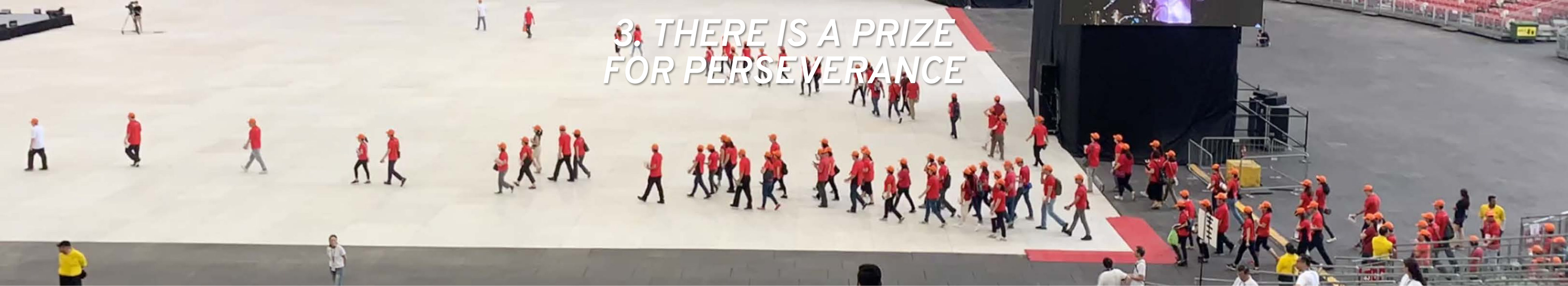
The jailer brought them in to his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God — he and his whole household.

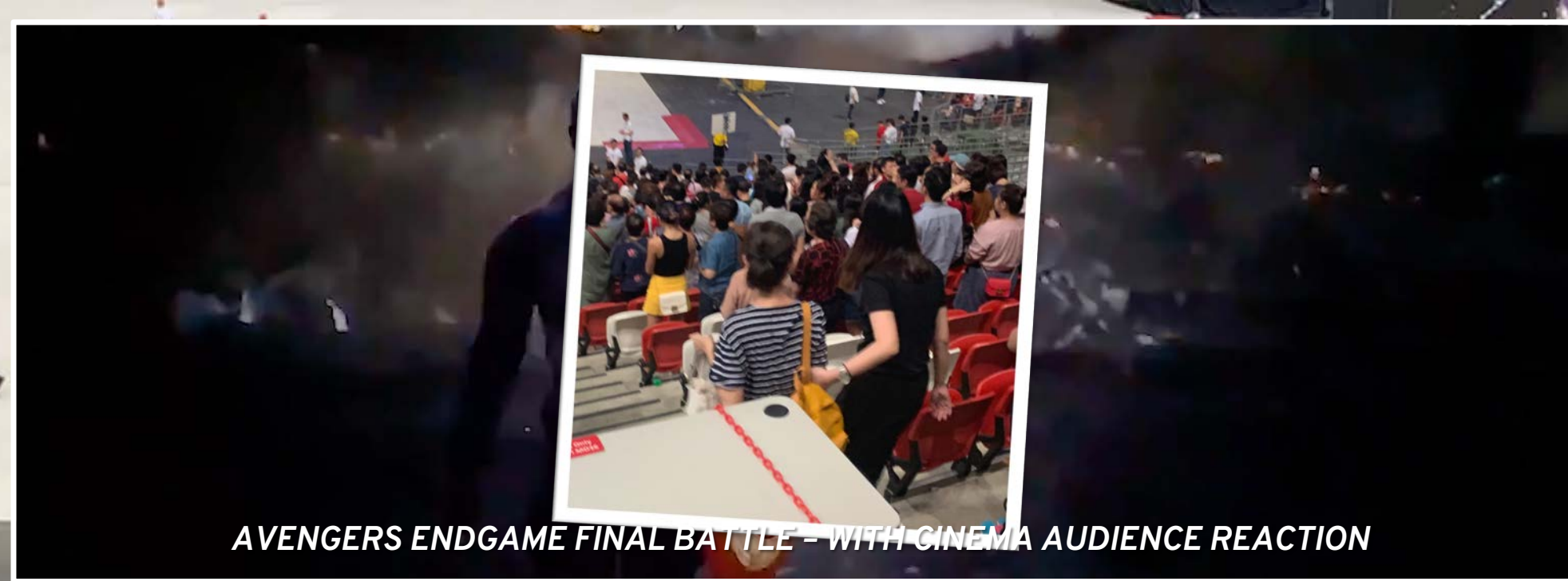
A wide-angle, high-angle shot of a massive crowd of people, likely at a sports event or concert, filling a stadium. The audience is densely packed, and many individuals are captured in the middle of clapping. The crowd is diverse in age and appearance, with many young people. The lighting is bright, suggesting an outdoor daytime event. The overall atmosphere is one of collective celebration and energy.

3. THERE IS A PRIZE FOR PERSEVERANCE

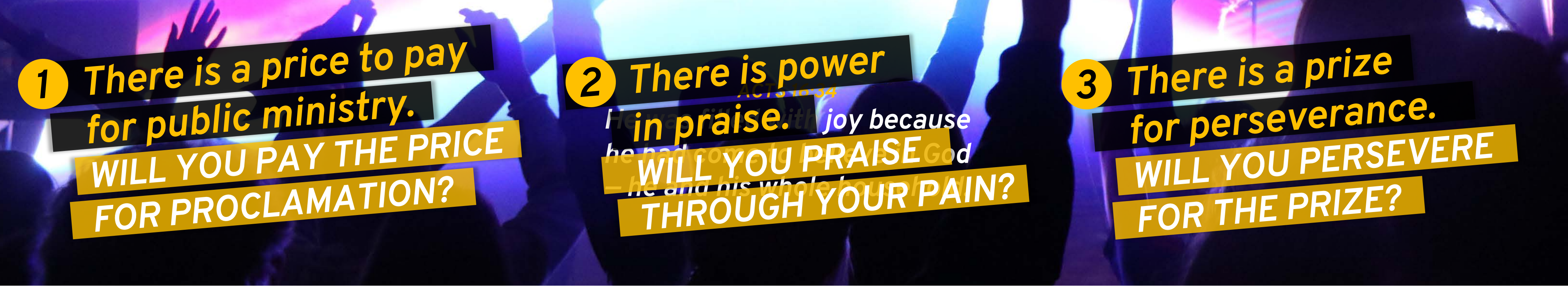


*3. THERE IS A PRIZE
FOR PERSEVERANCE*





AVENGERS ENDGAME FINAL BATTLE - WITH CINEMA AUDIENCE REACTION



1 There is a price to pay
for public ministry.

**WILL YOU PAY THE PRICE
FOR PROCLAMATION?**

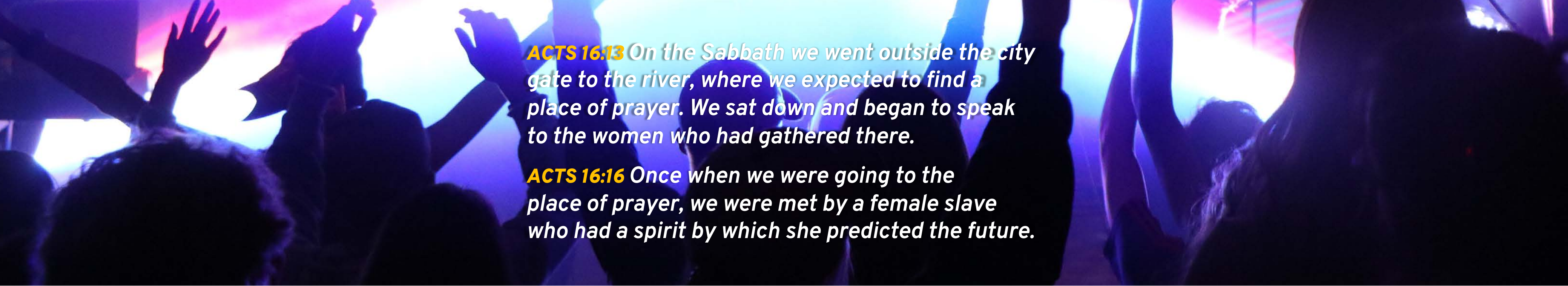
2 There is power
in praise.

ACTS 16:34
He was filled with joy because
he had come to believe in God
— he and his whole household.

**WILL YOU PRAISE
THROUGH YOUR PAIN?**

3 There is a prize
for perseverance.

**WILL YOU PERSEVERE
FOR THE PRIZE?**



ACTS 16:13 *On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.*

ACTS 16:16 *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.*



Prayer precedes proclamation.

WILL YOU PRAY FOR

THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE?