

The Salvation of A Prison Keeper

Act 16:22-34 And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.

23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:

24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

The setting of our text finds Paul and Silas in the city of Philippi preaching the wonderful news of the eternal salvation that is available to all poor lost sinners. The gospel message that they preached led to the salvation of a certain slave woman who was possessed with an evil spirit. The nature of her evil had been used by her masters for monetary gain. When God saved her, she was freed from the evil spirit and was no longer valuable to her masters. Their anger over this led to the severe beating of Paul and Silas and they were placed in prison. At midnight, Paul and Silas were apparently unable to sleep, probably because they were hurting for the beating they had endured. This led them to begin praying and singing praises unto God. At that point, God sent a great earthquake which caused the prison doors to open. The prison keeper was awakened by this commotion and feared the prisoners under his charge had escaped. He was so upset that he determined to kill himself but Paul stopped him and this man that was on the edge of falling into eternal hell was saved by God and today he is in the eternal glory of Heaven along with his household, Paul and Silas, that certain damsel that also was saved and along with the departed saved people of all ages. Let's visit with this man and his circumstances for a few minutes and look in on how he became saved by God.

FIRST He experienced a deep personal need

Act 16:29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

He knew why Paul and Silas had been put in prison. He might have even heard some of their preaching and Paul and Silas might have witnessed to him as they were brought into prison. He possibly had an indication from God that that earthquake came from God for a special purpose to respond to the ill treatment of Paul and Silas. We can easily see that this brought great fear and conviction to him and he

fell at the feet of Paul and Silas. God can bring a sinner to understand that he has a great need of salvation.

SECOND He asked a longing question

Act 16:30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

He saw himself in need of salvation and he knew that Paul and Silas could tell him how to be saved. He did not want to stand any longer on the edge of eternity as a lost sinner.

THIRD He was given the only life saving answer to meet his desperate personal need

*Act 16:31-32 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.
32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.*

Act 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

In verse 31, they pointed him straight to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Verse 32 states that “they spake unto him the word of the Lord and to all that were in his house”. By this, we can understand that they more fully explained that Jesus Christ has paid his sin debt on the cross, died for him and arose from the grave and was fully ready to save him and all his house. Jesus stands ready to save all who will come to him in full surrender to him trust him for salvation.

FOURTH He made a personal decision to place his faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior

Act 16:33-34 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

FIFTH He personally experienced the life saving and changing power of God come into his heart rejoiced in God's salvation

Act 16:34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

SIXTH He immediately evidenced his personal faith in Jesus Christ by obeying the divine command for believers to be baptized

Act 16:33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

SEVENTH He rejoiced in seeing his household also come to faith in Jesus Christ

Act 16:34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

EIGHTH He further evidenced his faith by caring for the needs of the wounds of Paul and Silas and feeding them in his own house

A saved person will desire and enjoy fellowship with other believers. Birds of the same feather do indeed flock together.

What a wonderful thing it is to see a person saved immediately demonstrate the evidence of true salvation.

If you are reading this message and find yourself longing to be saved, take courage, for this is proof that God is working in your heart, trying to bring you to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus really did die on the cross to pay your sin debt. He was buried and he indeed arise from the dead on the third day.. He does want to save you.

Rom 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.