

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

LESSON 20: CHAPTER 16-17

16 October 2015

THE SALVATION OF THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER

- Vs. 25** Paul and Silas, though suffering extreme discomfort, pain, and cruelty in the deepest prison—begin to sing praises unto God—loud enough for all the prisoners to hear them.
- Vs. 26** A supernatural earthquake shook the prison, opened the doors, and loosed ALL the bands from the prisoners.
- Vs. 27** The jailer woke up, saw the prison doors open, and proceeded to kill himself with a sword, assuming that all the prisoners had fled and that he would be blamed and executed.
- Vs. 28** Paul stopped the jailer from harming himself, assuring him that no prisoner had escaped.
1. The first reason the prisoners didn't flee: God wanted the jailer saved; not dead and in hell.
 2. The second reason they didn't flee: God wanted the prisoners to get saved through the testimony of the jailer.
- Vss. 29-30** The jailer couldn't believe the voice in the dark. He called for a light (other guards were there), he hurried into the cell block, went straight to Paul and Silas (he knew who had the answers) and asked **"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"**
- How did the jailer know Paul and Silas knew the answer to that question? Two possibilities:
1. They had already tried to witness to him earlier.
 2. They were singing songs about salvation.
- Vss. 31-34** The only correct answer: **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ."** The Jailer believed and his salvation was manifested (observable) by his actions (1 Jn. 3:14). He took them to his house and cleaned their wounds. His family also heard the gospel and believed. They were baptized that night. Afterwards he fed them a meal in his house.
- Notice Paul baptizes all his converts in chapter 16. He baptized Lydia, the jailer, and their households. Hyper-dispensationalists teach that Paul is against water baptism.
- Vss. 35-40** The magistrates (city officials) sent word to let Paul and Silas go. The jailer received the order and happily instructed the men to depart in peace. Paul protested, desiring that the magistrates come in person and publicly release them since he and Silas were both Roman citizens who were handled improperly in secret.
- When the magistrates **"heard that they were Romans"** (vs. 38), they feared that they might get in trouble for the harm they inflicted on Paul and Silas.
- It's obvious that Paul and Silas could have avoided all of the persecution if they had revealed their Roman citizenship before the beating (1 Cor. 7:21). Why didn't they?

- They were being led of the Holy Spirit to get to the jailer and his family. Their strategy included the ripped clothes, the beating, the jail, and the bands. Anything for a soul.
 - In Acts 22:24 Paul will use his Roman citizenship to get close to Felix the Governor.
-

ACTS CHAPTER 17

Thessalonica

Vss. 1-4 Paul entered the synagogue in Thessaonica and reasoned with the people there out of the scriptures on three Sabbath days. The open forum within the synagogue gave Paul a great opportunity to preach Christ (vs. 3). “Some of them believed” (vs. 4) and joined with Paul and Silas. These included some high society people.

Vss. 5-9 Some envious Jews hired some thugs to stir up the city and assault the house of Jason where Paul and Silas were staying, accusing them of “turning the world upside down” (vs. 6). They didn’t find Paul and Silas, so they took Jason to the rulers.

They were accused of denying Caesar as king, (see John 19:12) and setting up Jesus as king. Jason arranged for Paul and Silas to safely leave town, but Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians indicates that he wasn’t happy about this arrangement (see 1 Thess. 2:14-18).

Berea

Vss. 10-12 Paul and Silas arrived at Berea and went into the synagogue. The Bereans received the word, their mind was ready to receive the word, and they searched the scriptures daily. They had a strong appetite for the word of God. Because of these things, “many of them believed” (vs. 12).

Vss. 13-14 The envious Jews at Thessalonica heard that Paul was preaching the word of God in Berea, they brought trouble there and stirred up the people just like they did before. So Paul left Berea, but Silas and Timothy stayed there.

Athens

Vs. 15 Paul is brought to Athens, which is one of the highlights of his ministry.