

The Keeper of the Prison
Acts 16:27-32

Introduction:

1. Paul & Silas had been arrested,
 - a. beaten
 - b. & cast into the prison jail.
 - c. They were fastened in stocks
 - d. Their backs were sore in pain, but they were still courageous & happy.
 - e. They had something within that had never been conquered nor whipped.
 - f. They rejoiced because they were counted worthy to suffer for Christ.
 - g. at midnite they had a prayer meeting
 - h. They prayed & sang hymns praises unto God & the prisoners heard them.
- † The jailer was a lost man.
 1. He was very sinful
 - a. He had never been taught the truth about God.
 - b. He never had any association with God's people.
 - c. & was ignorant of the saving power of Jesus Christ.
 - (1) He was awakened to his lost condition
 - a. It had never appeared to him before that he was lost,
 - b. but that nite he came to himself,
 - c. He saw himself a sinner before God & felt for the first time in his life
 - (d) the awful pain & agony of being lost.
 - (2) He changed his whole attitude
 - a. He was a hardened jailer & man of authority
 - b. feared by the prisoners
 - c. & felt his sin against

- d. but on seeing himself lost & undone before God.
- e. he immediately humbled himself
- f. lost sight of what his Friends might think or say
- g. & fell at the feet of those holy men & cried out: "what must I do"

(B) He wanted to know Paul & Silas's God.

1. The Jews believed in the same God but did not know him in the same sense.

- a. The jailer had heard about God but he came face to face with the Realities of his presence
- b. Power
- c. Grace to save men

2. The Jews, ~~not~~ who had talked & wrote about God had never interested him.

- a. It took the real manifestation of his presence to bring conviction to this man's heart.

II What was the cause of the jailer's Conversion?

1. men are not saved by accident

- a. It is not something that comes to a man by chance.

b. Something must be done to the sinner to make him want to be saved.

c. This man was a very vile sinner

d. He did not regard man or God

e. He had the nerve to whip & preach

f. The courage of these men & the Grace of God did something to him

g. something God held of him.

(1) He heard singing & praying

- a. He awoke in the early part of the night,
- b. He went to sleep,
- c. The fact that he went to sleep after whipping these men was evident that he did not have much of a conscience.
- d. He was awakened by hearing Paul & Silas singing & praying,
- e. & by the earth & earthquake.
- f. The Prisoners also heard them.
- g. Sinners are often convicted of their sins in a prayer meeting
- h. hearing God's people praying & singing their praises of him

(2) The jailer felt the Earthquake & saw the doors open

- a. God rocked the foundation of the Prison & both the doors that had always taken a key to unlock freely swung open.
- b. The stocks that held these 2 men of God turned them loose,
- c. the 2 victims became free men.
- d. This was the most unusual thing that ever happened in the history of this Philippian jail.
- e. The jailer was astonished & grace came upon him.
- f. He knew it was God, the same God that Paul & Silas worshipped & served.

(3) The jailer was saved that night.

- a. He fell down & prayed.
- b. He repented of his sins & believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- c. You do not have to wait until tomorrow night
- d. or next week to be saved

2. You can be saved tonight.

3. The jailer did not put it off.

(4). Evidence of the jailer's conversion.

a. He ~~had~~ listened as the minister spoke ~~the~~ to him the Word of God.

b. He invited them to his home that night

c. He washed their stripes

d. & set meat before them.

e. He was baptized that very night.

f. His family was convicted & saved the same night.

g. He rejoiced, believing in God.

h. He was happy.

i. All men are happy when they are saved.

(5) One always sees, feels, or hears something that makes him want to be saved

III Personal Experience of being saved.

1. Every truly converted man has a experience to tell.

2. The most interesting & highest point in anyone's life.

(1) He got hungry for the blessing

2. He made an inquiry

3. He made a Decision