

The Conversion of the Philippian Jailer

Acts 16:30-34

Introduction

- Helpful for us today to study the preaching trips of the Apostle Paul: where he went, what he preached, how he conducted himself, the people he encountered.
- Acts 15:40 → Paul and Silas begin second journey.
 - Depart from Antioch
 - Go through Syria, Cilicia strengthening churches
 - Cities: Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, Antioch
 - Go through the regions of Phrygia and Galatia
 - They are forbidden to preach in Asia
 - Not allowed to go into Bithynia
 - Directed by the Spirit toward Troas
 - At Troas, Paul has a vision asking for help in Macedonia.
 - Depart Troas and make a straight course for Samothracia
- Then to Neapolis, the seaport for Philippi, which is 10 miles to the west.
- Philippi:
 - Founded by Philip, king of Macedon.
 - A political center – miniature Rome.
 - Opened up by Augustus for veterans.
 - Governed on the pattern of Rome.
- Conversion of Lydia and her household (Acts 16:12-16)
 - Lydia was devout.
 - Lydia was a prayerful woman.
 - Lydia was a worshipper of God.
 - Lydia was lost and needed the gospel.
 - Lydia's heart was opened by the Lord. How?
 - They spoke, she heard, the Lord opened her heart (16:13-14)
 - Through the hearing of the gospel the sinner's heart is opened: (Rom. 1:16; 10:17; Jn. 6:44-45; II Thess. 2:14; Acts 18:8; Lk. 8:15; Acts 26:16-18)
 - Lydia attended to the things that were spoken: she was baptized. (Acts 16:14-16)
- The damsel with the spirit of divination: (Acts 16:16-23)
 - Brought her masters much gain by soothsaying
 - Paul is grieved with this and cast the demon out of her.
 - Her masters, instead of rejoicing at her healing are furious because they will lose money.
 - Paul and Silas are taken into the market place before the magistrates and multitude and are falsely charged.
 - They are beaten and cast into prison.

I. The Conversion of the Philippian Jailer

- Paul and Silas are persecuted: falsely accused, beaten, cast into prison, placed in stocks.
 - Question: How would I have reacted?
 - They praised God. Sang and prayed.
 - They were heard by the prisoners. Our actions when we are tried are observed by others.
- The earthquake...
 - Shook the foundations of the prison.
 - Opened the all doors.

–Freed their bands.

•Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

–The jailor is about to take his life, when Paul instructs him to do himself no harm.

–The jailor asks the most important question anyone could ask.

–Their reply: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. We then see what is involved in believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

•They spake to him the word of the Lord.

•He washed their stripes.

•He and his household are baptized

•They rejoiced believing in God...

II. Some Issues To Address

•The Jailer was not saved by faith alone.

–Paul did not tell him he could be saved by faith only. (Acts 16:31)

–Cf. James 2:24-26; Jn. 12:42-43; Mk. 16:15-16

–He is said to be believing in the Lord after his baptism. (Acts 16:34)

•This case does not teach infant baptism. (Acts 16:31,32,34)

–Those who were saved heard the gospel.

–Those who were saved had sins to repent of. (Acts 2:38)

–Those who were saved are rejoicing in this at some point after midnight. (Acts 16:34)

•The necessity of baptism for salvation:

–Acts 2:38

–Acts 22:16

–I Pet. 3:21

–Gal. 3:26-27