

The Conversion of the Jailer

Text: Acts 16:16-34.

Introduction:

- A. In this narrative we find the most important question ever posed. - Acts 16:30; Matthew 16:26-27.
 - B. The question itself implies that something must be done.- Matthew 7:21.
 - C. What must I do to be saved?
- I. The background for the question- verses 16-29
- A. Paul cast a spirit of divination out of a damsel.- verses 16-18; cf. Mark 1:23-26; Ephesians 5:11
 - B. Paul and Silas were cast into prison .- verses 19-24; Acts 18:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:2
- C. the earthquake- verses 25-29
- 1. What an attitude they had!- verse 25; Philippians 4:4-8,11-13 (“Men do not pray when they are enraged, or sing when they are in deep distress.”- McGarvey)
 - 2. The jailor did that which was natural. - verses 26-27; Acts 12:19
 - 3. He had the right attitude.- verses 28-29; Acts 10:35
- II. The question- verse 30.
- A. not saved from earthquake: gone
 - B. not saved from Roman penalty: prisoners there
 - C. saved from divine condemnation - 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9
 - D. He realized he HAD to do something.- 2 Corinthians 5:10
- III. The answer- verses 31-32.
- A. They took him where they found him: a pagan.- verse 31; Hebrews 11:6
 - B. But they also spoke to him the word of the Lord.- verse 32
 - 1. Repentance - verses 23-24, 33-34
 - 2. Baptism - verse 34
 - a. not infant baptism - verse 34
 - b. not sprinkling - verses 33-34
 - c. no delay - verse 33
 - d. Only then could he rejoice.- verse 34
 - e. Only then had he truly believed. - verse 34
- Conclusion:
- A. The answer to the question is plain.- Acts 16:31-32
 - B. The reward for compliance is great.- Acts 16:31,34.
 - C. Will you comply with His will now?- Acts 16:33.