

# The Late Night Baptism of a Jailer

Acts 16:25-35

## Introduction:

- A. Paul and Silas imprisoned on trumped up charges. (vv. 19-24).
- B. Paul and Silas released by a midnight earthquake. (vv. 25-27).
- C. Our concern, in this lesson, is with the **significant events** surrounding the Jailer's baptism.
  - 1. What happened **before** he was baptized?
  - 2. What happened **when** he was baptized?
  - 3. What happened **after** he was baptized?

## Discussion:

### I. Significant Events *Before* the Jailer Was Baptized.

- A. Jailer prevented from **suicide**. (vv. 27-28).
  - 1. Preferred suicide to likely punishment. (cf. Acts 12:19)
  - 2. Suicide only compounds one's problem rather solving it - self-murder.
  - 3. Such need to understand that they really have something to live for.
  - 4. We will see what he would have missed had he ended his life.
- B. Jailer asked **most important question**. (v. 29-30).
  - 1. Not to be saved earthquake - already over.
  - 2. Not to be saved from Roman punishment - prisoners all there.
  - 3. But to be saved from sin and its wages. (cf. Rom. 6:23).
- C. Jailer given the **answer he needed**. (v. 31).
  - 1. Was an unbelieving pagan.
  - 2. Need to take this first step toward salvation. (cf. John 8:24).
- D. Jailer given the **information he needed**. (v. 32).
  - 1. Could not believe in Him of whom had not heard. (Rom. 10:14).
  - 2. Could not hear without a preacher. (Rom. 10:15-17, 8)
- E. Jailer shows **evidence of repentance**. (v. 33a)
  - 1. Had been party to their stripes, now washes them.
  - 2. Repentance: change of mind prompted by godly sorrow & followed reformation. (cf. 2 Cor. 7:10)

### II. Significant Events *When* the Jailer was Baptized.

- A. Jailer was baptized **immediately**. (v. 33b).
  - 1. Without waiting for church vote or authority.
  - 2. Indicative of the urgency of the matter - needed to be saved immediately.
- B. Jailer was baptized **away from his house**.
  - 1. Not told where, but could have been in the river. (v. 13).
  - 2. Not necessary to leave house if sprinkling or pouring were baptism.
- C. Jailer was baptized **with his family**. (v. 33b).
  - 1. Family also believed (v. 34), so no infants were involved.
  - 2. Wonderful when families united with Christ and in Him.

### III. Significant Events *After* the Jailer was Baptized.

- A. Jailer and family **rejoiced after baptism** rather than before. (v. 34b).
  - 1. Had reason to rejoice - was saved. (cf. Mk. 16:16).
  - 2. Had their sins washed away. (cf. Acts 22:16).
  - 3. Had been added to church (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13).
- B. Jailer began practicing his new religious by **showing hospitality**. (v. 34a).
  - 1. May not have yet known command to "be hospitable to one another . . ." (1 Pet. 4:9).
  - 2. Likely flowed from joy and gratitude for salvation - should it not be so with us?
- C. Jailer, by order of magistrates, **attempts to release Paul and Silas** from custody. (v. 35,36).
  - 1. They refused their secret attempt to correct an open injustice. (v. 37).
  - 2. We need more like them today - need to insist on open correction for open sin.

## Conclusion:

- A. Do you have the same reasons to rejoice as the jailer and his family?
- B. If you believe, why not repent and be baptized as they did?