

Praising God

Acts 16:16-34

Paul and Silas in Prison

As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." 18 And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

19 But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. 20 And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. 21 They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice." 22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. 23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. 24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

The Philippian Jailer Converted

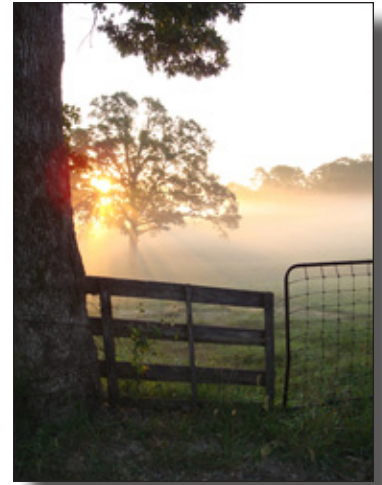
25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, 26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

27 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." 29 And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas.

30 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. 34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

"Give thanks to the LORD, for His steadfast love endures forever."

2 Chronicles 20:21



He Leadeth Me

by: Joseph H. Gilmore

He leadeth me, Oh blessed thought!
Oh words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whatever I do, wherever I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me,
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand, He leadeth me.

A Closer Look: Praising God

1. Paul and Silas removed an evil spirit from a woman who was able to tell fortunes. Why did her owner have the men put in prison? *(He was mad because she could no longer make money for him.)*
2. How were Paul and Silas treated before they were put in prison? *(The crowds attacked them. Their clothes were torn and they were beaten with rods.)*
3. What was it like in prison? *(They were in an inner cell with their feet bound in stocks. It was very dark.)*
4. What were Paul and Silas doing while in prison? *(They were praying and singing hymns! The other prisoners were listening.)*
5. What miracle happened? *(There was an earthquake, all the doors of the prison opened and the prisoners were no longer chained.)*
6. What did the jailer do when he saw what had happened? *(He threatened to kill himself. He thought the prisoners had escaped.)*
7. Paul and Silas told the jailer that none had escaped. What question did the jailer ask? *(What must I do to be saved?)*
8. What did they tell the jailer? *(Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household.)*
9. Paul and Silas had been treated very badly and were thrown in a horrible prison, why do you think they were able to praise God? *(They knew God was with them even in prison)*
10. How was God glorified? *(The jailer and his family believed in God)*