

## Cases of Conversion

The Philippian Jailer – From  
Desperation To Salvation Within  
An Hour

## Introduction

- Many live their lives without any knowledge of serving the Lord Jesus
- Often, due to sudden disasters, some become desperate to the point of suicide or short of that, prolonged depression
- They see no hope in their lives because things have gone so differently from what they expected them to be

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## Introduction

- The Philippian jailer was such a man who was brought to the point of desperation intending to kill himself
- But within an hour, he went from desperation to rejoicing as a Christian, forgiven of his sins, starting a new spiritual life serving the Lord Jesus

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## Introduction

- Sadly, the account of the jailer has been perverted by many who deny necessity of baptism as part of being saved
- Many are not told what Paul and Silas told the jailer to do to be saved
- We study this conversion to know what the Lord required for the jailer and demands of us to be saved

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## The Lord's Actions To Bring The Gospel To The Jailer

Act 16:9 A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

Act 16:10 When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

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## The Lord's Actions To Bring The Gospel To The Jailer

- Paul's Macedonian vision led to first recorded preaching of the gospel in Europe
- Philippi – a Roman city in Macedonia, northern part of Greece
- First baptized into Christ in Philippi – Lydia and household
- Paul and Silas imprisoned – casts out spirit from slave-girl exploited by evil men for profit

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## The Lord's Actions To Bring The Gospel To The Jailer

Act 16:16 It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

Act 16:17 Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation."

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## The Lord's Actions To Bring The Gospel To The Jailer

Act 16:18 She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.

Act 16:19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities,

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## The Lord's Actions To Bring The Gospel To The Jailer

Act 16:20 and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, "These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews,

Act 16:21 and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans."

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## The Lord's Actions To Bring The Gospel To The Jailer

Act 16:22 The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order *them* to be beaten with rods.

Act 16:23 When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely;

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## The Lord's Actions To Bring The Gospel To The Jailer

Act 16:24 and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

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## Paul And Silas Rejoice To Suffer For The Lord

- Being prisoners, they come in contact with the jailer
- In prison, they prayed and sang praises to the Lord rejoicing they could suffer shame for His Name
- This is the opposite of how those in the world, including the jailer, act when they are faced with adversity

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## Paul And Silas Rejoice To Suffer For The Lord

Act 16:25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

1Pe 4:15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;

1Pe 4:16 but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. 13

## The Sudden Earthquake

Act 16:26 and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. 14

## Character Of The Jailer

- Not much known about jailer's character
- An idolater doing his job
- Facing unforeseen disaster on a grand scale (escape of prisoners), he had no hope but to kill himself
- Reminded of Gentiles' hopeless condition without Christ
- When assured all was well, expressed his desire to be saved 15

## Character Of The Jailer

Act 16:27 When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

Eph 2:12 *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 16

## Character Of The Jailer

Act 16:28 But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!"

Act 16:29 And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas,

Act 16:30 and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 17

## The Gospel Message The Jailer Heard

- No matter how bad our situation is, our greatest problem is being separated from and rebelling against God
- When the jailer realized this, Paul provides the only answer that matters – the only power to save – the gospel of Christ
- Imperative for the jailer and his family to know who Jesus was, what He had done for them and what they needed to do to be saved 18

## The Gospel Message The Jailer Heard

Act 16:31 They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Act 16:32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.

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## The Jailer's Response To The Gospel

- It is a shame that many false teachers take Acts 16:31 out of context to "prove" the jailer was saved by simply believing in Jesus without any need to be baptized
- However, the context is clear, in order for him to believe in Jesus, he must have some understanding of Jesus

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## The Jailer's Response To The Gospel

- And, like thousands before him, he must believe to the point of repenting of his sins and being baptized for the forgiveness of his sins
- Washing Paul and Silas' wounds indicated his repentance

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## The Jailer's Response To The Gospel

Act 16:33 And he took them that *very* hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his *household*.

Act 26:20 but *kept* declaring both to those of Damascus first, and *also* at Jerusalem and *then* throughout all the region of Judea, and *even* to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

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## The Jailer's Response To The Gospel

- Upon being baptized, he and his family rejoiced because of their belief in the Lord
- Reminds us of what happened in Acts 2 when people first became Christians

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## The Jailer's Response To The Gospel

Act 16:34 And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.

Act 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know--

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## The Jailer's Response To The Gospel

Act 2:23 this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

Act 2:24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

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## The Jailer's Response To The Gospel

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

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## The Jailer's Response To The Gospel

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

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## The Jailer's Response To The Gospel

- Led by a belief in Jesus, they were baptized immediately not waiting for any length of time
- They were also baptized privately showing that baptism does not have to be a public demonstration but when done through faith in the Lord, it leads to forgiveness of sins, its very purpose

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## The Jailer's Response To The Gospel

- Within an hour, the jailer went from having no hope in this world to a child of God, an heir with eternal inheritance
- He went from nearly killing himself to rejoicing with his family who had also obeyed the gospel, repenting of their sins and being baptized for the forgiveness of sins because they believed in Jesus
- Why not be saved today within this hour?

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## The Philippian Jailer – From Desperation To Salvation Within An Hour

The Lord's actions to bring the gospel to the jailer

Character of the jailer

The gospel message the jailer heard

The jailer's response to the gospel

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