

Cases of Conversion

The Philippian Jailer From
Desperation To Salvation Within
An Hour v2

Introduction

- Many in this life trying to guide themselves find themselves in desperate situations where they do not know which way to turn
- Every choice seems like one that will bring only pain even death
- The Philippian jailer was such a man who was prepared to take his life because of his belief that the prisoners under his control had escaped

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Introduction

- But within an hour, he went from desperation to rejoicing as a Christian, forgiven of his sins and hope of eternal life
- Without Jesus, we cannot guide ourselves in how to be saved and in daily life
- What did he do to be saved within an hour and what must we do to be saved today?

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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

- Philippi was a Roman city in Macedonia, northern part of Greece
- The first baptized into Christ in Philippi were Lydia and her household
- Then Paul and Silas were imprisoned for casting out a spirit from a slave-girl who was being exploited by evil men for money

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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

- 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 trouble
- But being prisoners, they come in contact with the jailer

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Paul And Silas Praying Singing and Rejoicing 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.

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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.

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Character Of The Jailer

- Little known about the 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
- Without Christ, we are all in a hopeless condition
- When assured all was well, he expressed his desire to be saved

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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.

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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?"

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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 gave him the only answer that matters – the only power to save is the gospel of Christ
- It was essential for the jailer and his family to know who Jesus was, what He had done for them and what they must do to be saved

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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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Who Is Jesus and What Has He Done For Us?

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—

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. 19

Who Is Jesus and What Has He Done For Us?

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.

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." 20

The Jailer's Response To The Gospel

- It is sad that many false teachers take Acts 16:30-31 out of context to "prove" the jailer was saved by simply believing in Jesus without any need of being baptized
- His belief they say was expressed in the sinner's prayer
- But we read they spoke the word of the Lord to them, they washed their wounds and immediately that hour they were baptized 21

The Jailer's Response To The Gospel

- After they were baptized for forgiveness of sins, he fed them and they rejoiced having believed in the Lord Jesus
- No single case of conversion in Acts tells us all we must do to be saved
- But from all cases of conversion, we must conclude that belief in Jesus must lead us to repent of our sins, confess Jesus as the Son of God and be baptized for the forgiveness of our sins 22

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. 23

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. 24

Belief Leading to Repentance and Baptism For Forgiveness of Sins

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?"

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.

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Belief Leading to Confessing Jesus As The Son of God and Baptism

Act 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.

Act 8:36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said*, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

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Belief Leading to Confessing Jesus As The Son of God and Baptism

Act 8:37 [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."]

Act 8:38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

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Belief Leading to Confessing Jesus As The Son of God and Baptism

Act 8:39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.

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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 which is its 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 being a child of God, an heir with eternal inheritance
- Why not be saved today?

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