

SAVED LIKE THE JAILER

Acts 16:16-34

The case of the Philippian jailer is an example of salvation worth emulating.

I. THE JAILER HAD BEEN SUICIDAL

A. Act 16:27-28

The jailer had every reason to believe his inmates had escaped, so he was desperate, knowing what would become of him.

B. Acts 12:18-19

Since soldiers forfeited their lives when prisoners escaped, it made sense to the Philippian jailer to get it over with.

C. Matthew 27:3-5; Acts 1:25

Suicide is not a real solution. Judas Iscariot committed suicide and the surviving apostles described his eternal destination as other than their own – meaning hell.

D. Proverbs 12:25; 1st Peter 5:6-7

Those who are depressed need a good word to bring gladness, and they need a compassionate Lord to transfer their burdens to. That's how Paul and Silas were able to share the gospel with the jailer; they preached to him that gospel of the Lord Jesus who is the ultimate burden bearer.

II. THE JAILER HEARD THE WORD OF THE LORD BEYOND MERELY "BELIEVE"

A. Acts 16:31-32

It was after they said, "*Believe... and you will be saved*" that "*they spoke the word of the Lord.*" The remark about belief was merely an introduction to the gospel they intended to preach. There is definitely more to the gospel than faith.

B. James 2:14-26

“Faith only” is a dangerous doctrine totally unsubstantiated by anything Scripture teaches.

C. John 1:12

Those who believe are not automatically the children of God, but they have the right to become such!

D. Romans 10:9-10

Belief needs to be paired with confession.

E. Mark 1:5

Belief should accompany repentance.

F. Mark 16:16

Belief must be coupled with baptism.

III. THE JAILER REPENTED

A. Acts 16:33_a

Remember that Paul and Silas had been beaten with rods (22) and many stripes were laid upon them (23), so washing their stripes was an act of repentance, an effort to correct the wrong that had been perpetrated.

B. Acts 3:19

Without repentance, sins abide, but with repentance, God gives refreshment.

C. Acts 26:20

There are “*works befitting repentance*” and what the jailer did counts as such.

D. 2nd Corinthians 7:10

Repentance is more than just regret. It is feeling bad enough to change course and engage in better behavior.

IV. THE JAILER DID NOT WAIT TO BE BAPTIZED

A. Acts 16:33

The jailer perceived his need for baptism to be an urgent matter. Not once in Scripture did someone schedule their baptism. Not once did they wait to get

several others ready for a baptism ceremony. Baptism was always a spontaneous response to the gospel call.

B. Acts 8:36

The treasurer of Ethiopia wanted to be baptized as soon as he saw water.

C. Acts 22:16

When it came to baptism, Ananias asked Saul, *“Why are you waiting?”*

D. Galatians 3:27

Considering what happens at baptism, of course the jailer didn't want to delay!

E. 2nd Corinthians 6:2

Today can be salvation day for you, too!