

## SHARING THE GOSPEL THAT JESUS CHRIST PREACHED

### Situation #1

Acts 16:16-34

- The Philippian jailor already knew that he was a desperate, undeserving sinner that did not have the ability to put his soul right with the only, true, living and holy God of the Bible. He already knew that someone must save him from the bondage of his sin and set him free.
- But there was a need to teach him the necessity of knowing and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. There was also the need to teach him the hope of salvation that lies in the Grace of God. God is able to do for sinners and in sinners what they are incapable of doing themselves.
- Therefore, it was by the Grace of God that the Philippian jailor was enabled to embrace Jesus Christ, as was freely offered to him in the gospel. This Philippian jailor was saved by grace alone, which worked into him both the will and the ability to do God's good pleasure. Which, in this case, was to Repent and Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### I. Applications

##### A. To Believers

1. We Need to be good listeners – especially to those to whom we are endeavoring to share the gospel
  2. We Need to ask God for the wisdom to correctly discern where to begin and what to emphasize when talking to people about The Gospel that our Lord Jesus Christ Preached. Each person is different. Each circumstance or situation may differ from another.
  3. Most of all, We Need to Remember and follow the Model of The Gospel that Jesus Christ Preached, when you have opportunity to share the gospel with sinners – Preach the Character of God, the Law of God, the absolute necessity of Repentance of Sin, the absolute necessity of the Believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and the Amazing, Enabling, Encouraging Grace of God.
- B. To Unbelievers – This is the gospel that you need to hear and heed this evening: *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved...”*

#### I. The Model – the Gospel that the Lord Jesus preached to the rich, young ruler – Matt.19:16-26; Mk.10:17-27; Lk.18:18-27

- A. The Lord Jesus preached the CHARACTER of God – 19:17a *“...No one is good but One, that is, God.”*
- B. The Lord Jesus preached the LAW of God – 19:17b *“...But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”*
- C. The Lord Jesus preached REPENTANCE of Sin unto Life – 19:21a *“...go, sell what you have and give to the poor...”*
- D. The Lord Jesus preached FAITH in the Lord Jesus Christ – 19:21b *“...come, follow Me.”*
- E. The Lord Jesus preached the GRACE of God – 19:26 *“...With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”*

#### II. The Model Applied – Situation #1: the gospel preached to the Philippian jailor, Acts 16:16-34

##### A. The observed likenesses and differences

1. The Likenesses
  - a. Both men came running and bowed down, Mk.10:17
  - b. Both men asked a similar question, Mt.19:16; Ac.16:30
2. The Differences
  - a. In the answer given to the question asked
    - To the rich, young ruler – *“But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”* Matt.19:17
    - To the Philippian jailor – *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved...”* Acts 16:31
  - b. In the individual response to the answer that they each were given
    - The rich, young ruler *“...was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful...”* Mk.10:22
    - The Philippian jailor – *“...he rejoiced, having believed in God...”*, Acts 16:34. He was immediately baptized, 16:33.

- B. Our focal point of concern: Did both of these men hear the same gospel? Was the gospel that they heard, the Gospel that Jesus Christ preached?
- C. Was the Apostle Paul following the Gospel Model given by the Lord Jesus? Let's take a closer look.
1. Was the Character of God preached to the Philippian jailor? Yes, it was.
    - a. Mainly through the "...*praying and singing hymns to God...*" by Paul and Silas. (16:25) We are told in Scripture (16:25) that "...*the prisoners were listening to them.*"
    - b. For Other possible means of hearing about the Character of God, see Acts 16:16-24
  2. Was the Law of God preached to the Philippian jailor?
    - a. Not directly, but perhaps indirectly. His own conscience may have been convicted by the manner in which he treated Paul and Silas, who had been beaten with rods and had many stripes on them (16:24) cf. Rom.2:13-15
      - His own self-preservation caused him to put Paul and Silas "...*into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.*" (16:24)
      - Also what he may have picked up from directly listening to their prayers and hymn singing in the inner prison
    - b. Certainly the earthquake grabbed this Philippian jailor's attention! It caused him to despair of life itself! He was about to kill himself, having lost all hope.
  3. Was Repentance of Sin preached to the Philippian jailor?
    - a. Yes, but not verbally and directly by teaching and applying specifically the 10 Commandments.
    - b. But by Paul's "...*loud voice, saying, 'Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.'*"
    - c. The Philippian jailor's Repentance is manifested in what he did.
      - 16:29 "*Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.*"
      - 16:30 "*And brought them out* (of the inner prison)..."
- 16:33 "*And took them that same hour of the night and washed their stripes...*"
  - 16:34 "*Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them;...*"
4. Was Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ preached to the Philippian jailor?
    - a. Yes, there can be no doubt about this!
    - b. The Scriptures plainly and clearly state (16:31), "*So they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ...'*"
  5. Was the Grace of God preached to the Philippian jailor?
    - a. Yes. Look at what else the Apostle Paul told the Philippian jailor when he answered the jailor's question, saying, "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,...*"
    - b. This is a future verb tense in the passive voice; meaning, that the saving that will occur, will not be of the Philippian jailor's doing. This "saving", this salvation, that the Apostle is talking about, will be done to the Philippian jailor and not done by the Philippian jailor! Someone will act upon the Philippian jailor so as to cause and enable him to be saved! That is the Grace of God! (Eph.2:8, 9)
- D. Note the reason for the difference in presentation of Christ's gospel
1. It has to do with the spiritual state of the individual to whom the gospel is being given.
  2. Consider carefully the question asked by the Philippian jailor, as compared to the question asked by the rich, young ruler
    - a. Rich, young ruler – "*Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?*" Matt.19:16
      - The rich, young ruler was seeking to earn eternal life by his good works!
      - The rich, young ruler did not see himself as a desperate sinner needing to be rescued from his bondage of sin.
    - b. The Philippian jailor – "*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*"