

The Preacher and the Jailer

Acts 16:25-40

Introduction

Both groups have a common denominator – perceived threats to their *positions, prominence, and prosperity*.

v19

As living witnesses for Jesus Christ, Christians are not to fear personal loss. Nor should their actions on behalf of Christ be predicated on an expectation of earthly gain.

v20

v21

“They advocate customs...”

It is not a *code of conduct* that we follow, but a Savior.

v22

“beat them with rods”

v23

Evil intent fears not its open display of hypocrisy.

v24

“inner prison”

“fastened their feet in the stocks”

v25

Psalm 42:8

God gives us a song in the night that becomes our passionate prayer offered to Him.

“psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs” – Colossians 3:16

1 John 5:4-5

“the prisoners were listening to them”

v26

The earthquake happened, not to deliver Paul and Silas, but the Jailer.

v27

To Paul and Silas, the “great earthquake” meant freedom. To the jailer, it meant *death*.

v28

One of the greatest Christlike virtues ever: *self-forgetfulness*

v29

“trembling with fear”

It was the jailer who was imprisoned, not Paul and Silas.

“fell down before Paul and Silas”

v30

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” The universal cry of the lost around the world.

Why would this rough jailer go to his captives for a remedy to his fears?

The *theological answer*: John 6:44

Hosea 11:4

The *practical answer*: Acts 16:17

Those who insist on clinging to earthly things for security and significance forfeit their own salvation.

Salvation means being healed and being safe, not from all harm, but from the wrath of God!

v31 *Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.*

Romans 1:16

v32 *And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.*

It is the Word of God that sets you free.

John 8:31-32

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” Romans 10:17

Isaiah 61:1-2a

v33

v34

Irrepressible inward joy and an outward extension of hospitality are a convincing evidences of true salvation.

v35 - v40