

Why was the jailer baptized in the middle of the night?

➤ Intro:

→ story of Paul from Antioch (beginning 2nd missionary journey) to the Philippian jailer's question

- ● **PP - map**
- **from Antioch to Philippi**
 - **Acts 15:41** (beginning of 2nd missionary journey) Paul took Silas and traveled through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches
 - **Acts 16:1-6** Timothy joined them, continued traveling through the Phrygian and Galatian region, Spirit forbid them to speak the word in Asia
 - **Acts 16:7** came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them
 - **Acts 16:8** passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas
 - **Acts 16:9-12** Paul had a vision of a Macedonian man appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." They went to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony
- **in Philippi: conversion of Lydia and her household**
 - **Acts 16:13** Sabbath day, Paul and companions went outside the gate to a riverside, supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled
 - **Acts 16:14** Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul
 - **Acts 16:15** Lydia and her household were baptized, then she urged Paul to come into her house and stay
- **in Philippi: Paul's arrest and imprisonment**
 - **Acts 16:16** as Paul was going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met them, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling
 - **Acts 16:17** she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation."
 - **Acts 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
 - **Acts 16:19** 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
 - **Acts 16:20-21** when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, "These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews, and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans."
 - **Acts 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
 - **Acts 16:23** when they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into **prison**, commanding the jailer to guard them securely
 - **Acts 16:24** the jailer, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in (48) the stocks
- ● **PP - photo prison:** traditional site of the prison where Paul and Silas were kept
- **in Philippi: Paul and Silas in prison, jailer's conversion**
 - **Read - Acts 16:30-33**

➤ #1 The jailer's question and Paul's answer

→ **Question:** Haven't all of us asked the same question the jailer asked - "What must I do to be saved?" (**Acts 16:30**)

- What's Paul's answer?

→ **Paul's answer**

- **Quote - Acts 16:31** (above) "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."
 - **What does it mean to believe in the Lord Jesus?**

review: What must we do? — believe

next: What does it mean to believe?

➤ #2 What does it mean to "believe in the Lord Jesus"?

→ "Believe" is something we do - it can be seen by others.

- "believe" is a verb - action (the associated noun is faith)
- **Read - John 6:28-29** doing the **works** of God, summed up in a single word — **believe**
 - **application:** one who believes is **persuaded** that Jesus is Lord, **listens** to the commands of Jesus, **obeys** the commands of Jesus
 - **illus.:** 'No arms, no legs, no handicaps' (Karen Smith, HomeTownLife.com, 1/26/06)
 - **Brett Eastburn** was **born with no arms and legs**.
 - **While in school**, Eastburn played baseball, football and basketball. He also became an accomplished swimmer and wrestler, competing on the varsity wrestling team as one of the captains. He placed fourth in the nation in a 1988 Amateur Athletic Union competition. Eastburn is also a green belt in the martial arts and a nationally recognized artist.
 - **How? — believed**
 - But **he isn't disabled, he said**. Rather, **the person who thinks he or she can't do something is the one who's handicapped**, he said.

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- **Read - Jn. 3:36** believes in the Son has eternal life; but **he who does not obey** the Son will not see life
 - **notes regarding differences in translation:**
 - some translations read "and **he who does not believe** the Son shall not see life"
 - the Greek (apeitheo / ap-i-theh'-o) has two components: to be persuaded and to comply (obey) - one who does not obey does not believe (both translations are correct, the word in translated both ways throughout different transactions depending on the context)
 - **illus.:** one boy tells another boy, "Don't go near that dog. If you do, he'll bite you."
 - boy doesn't listen to friend, goes near the dog and gets bit
 - Did the boy believe his friend or disbelieve his friend? — no
 - **disbelieved, not comply with the command - not obey**
 - the boys **disbelief** could be seen
 - **boy was me**

- → What did **Paul do**, before the jailer could believe? What did the **jailer do**, before he could believe? — **Why**
- **Read - Acts 16:31-32** believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, **spoke the word**
 - **Answer:** Paul had to **preach**, and the jailer had to **listen and learn**.
 - **if Paul wouldn't have preached**, the man would not have known what to **believe (obey)** **if the jailer wouldn't have listened and learned**, he would not have **believed (obeyed)**
 - **application:** we (today) have to listen to God's word and learn it to believe
 - **Quote - Rom. 1:16-17** "For I am not ashamed of the **gospel**, for **it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes**, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 **For in it the righteousness of God is revealed** from faith to faith; as it is written, "**BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.**"
 - **Quote - Rom. 10:17** So **faith comes from hearing**, and hearing by the **word** of Christ.

- → **To believe in Jesus is to continue in His word - be a disciple of Jesus, know the truth, set free from sin**
 - **Read - Jn. 8:31-32** Jews who had believed in Jesus, continue in My word, truly disciples, know the truth, the truth will make you free
 - **If we believe Jesus, we will continue (abide) in His word.**
 - **it all begins with believing Jesus:** continue in His word, be a disciple of Jesus, know the truth, set free from sin
 - if we don't believe in Jesus, we have no chance of salvation
 - **to continue in Jesus' word, we must obey His word**
 - **Read - 2 Th. 1:6-10**
 - not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus, punished
 - saved, if believe
 - **note:** jailer believed, the result was that he was **baptized** in the middle of the night
- ● **When we abide in Jesus' word, we: (3 things)**
 - **We are His disciples.**
 - **Read - Matt. 28:18-20** (Jesus' commission to make disciples, Matt.) all authority, make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all
 - **jailer obeyed Jesus:** believed and was baptized; **he became a disciple**
 - **We know the truth.** as revealed in God's word vs. the doctrines of men (demons)
 - **Quote - Jn. 8:32** (above) and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free
 - **We are set free from sin.** - believe and obey Jesus, who sets us free from sin when baptized
 - **Read - Rom. 6:3-6** baptized into Christ, baptized into His death, buried, walk in newness of life, united with Him, old self was crucified, body of sin might be done away with
 - **jailer obeyed Jesus:** believed and was **baptized into Christ — set free from sin**

➤ #3 Why was the jailer baptized in the middle of the night?

→ he believed what Paul preached that night

- because he believed, he wanted to obey the Lord and be set free from sin as His disciple

→ Why is baptism so urgent, the jailer would have been baptized in the middle of the night?

- **PP - Mk. 16:16** (Jesus, saved) "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."
- ● **PP - Acts 2:38** (forgiveness) "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."
- ● **PP - Acts 22:16** (wash away sins, Jesus to Paul) "'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'"
- ● **PP - Rom. 6:3** (into Christ and His death, united) "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?"
- ● **PP - Col. 2:12** (buried and raised up with Christ) "having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."
- ● **PP - 1 Pet. 3:21** (saves us, appeal to be saved) "Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,"

➤ **Conclusion:**

→ When do believers obey God? **immediately** — be baptized, or anything else.

→ Do you believe the Lord Jesus?

- have you been baptized for the remission of your sins, to be saved, to enter into Christ

→ **Inv.:**

- Do you believe the Jesus?
 - have you been baptized for the remission of your sins, to be saved, to enter into Christ
 - is there anything the Lord commands, that you are not doing in your life, today
- What has Jesus commanded, to be saved?
 - if you believe but have not obeyed. . . .

Audio sermon notes:

- ➤ denotes where to proceed to the next slide PowerPoint slide.
- All Scriptures are NASB, unless otherwise noted.
- Sermon recorded 2/12/2006, Church of Christ, South Livingston Ave. In Lutz, FL, Allan McNabb, BibleStudyGuide.org.