

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”
(John 15:11)

“...so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.” (John 17:13)

“I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.” (John 16:20-22)

“And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,” (Philippians 1:18)
“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4)

Paul & Silas Witness in Philippi (Acts 16:12-40)

1. Lydia’s Conversion. (Acts 16:12-15)

“From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. ¹³ On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. ¹⁵ When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. ‘If you consider me a believer in the Lord,’ she said, ‘come and stay at my house.’ And she persuaded us.”

2. The Slave Girl Freed from Demon Possession. (Acts 16:16-18)

“Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, ‘These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.’ ¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, ‘In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!’ At that moment the spirit left her.”

3. The Jailer’s Conversion. (Acts 16:19-34)

“When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²⁰ They brought them before the magistrates and said, ‘These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar ²¹ by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.’ ²² The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to

be stripped and beaten.²³ After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.²⁴ Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped.²⁸ But Paul shouted, 'Don't harm yourself! We are all here!'²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas.³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'³¹ They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household.'³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God--he and his whole family.

Some Lessons from this Story

1. **SALVATION comes by BELIEVING in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

"He then brought them out and asked, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'³¹ They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household.'" (Acts 16:30-31)

- We can **ONLY** be saved by the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **ANYBODY** can be saved by the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **JOY comes with JESUS.**

"The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God--he and his whole family." (Acts 16:34)

3. **Christians can CHOOSE and EXPERIENCE joy in the midst of TRIALS.**

"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them." (Acts 16:25)

- *"In all our troubles my joy knows no bounds" (2 Corinthians 7:4)*
- *"Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity." (2 Cor. 8:2)*
- *"In this we greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials." (1 Peter 1:6)*

God is not defeated by suffering, so we don't need to be either.

4. **Our ALTITUDE is determined by our ATTITUDE.**