

## PAUL & SILAS IN JAIL

**Acts 13:1-3 & 15:40 & 16:4-34**

13:1 Paul was at Jesus' church in the city of Antioch (in northern Syria about 600 kilometers north of Jerusalem). 2 The leaders in the church were worshiping God – then God's Holy Spirit said, "I want Paul to do work for me." 3 So the leaders of the church prayed – then the leaders sent Paul to do God's work.

15:40 Paul wanted to work with Silas – so Paul chose Silas. 16:4 And they traveled from town to town. 5 Paul and Silas helped Jesus' churches have strong faith in Jesus. And every day more people joined the churches.

12 Then Paul and Silas traveled to the city of Philippi (about 1500 kilometers west in Greece). 16 There was a slave girl in Philippi. The slave girl had a bad spirit. The bad spirit gave the girl power – so the slave girl could tell the future. The girl's owners made a lot of money, because the slave girl was a fortune-teller.

17 [For many days] the slave girl followed Paul and Silas. Again and again she shouted, "These men work for the Highest God. These men are telling you how to be saved."

18 After many days Paul became upset. Paul said to the bad spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ, come out of the girl." Instantly, the bad spirit came out of the girl.

19 Now, the slave girl could not tell the future. And the girl's owners could not make money. So the girl's owners grabbed Paul and Silas – and the owners took Paul and Silas to the judges. 20 The owners said to the judges, "Paul and Silas are Jews – and they are upsetting our city. 21 We are Romans. But they are teaching foreign customs."

22-23 The judges said: "Whip Paul and Silas." So, soldiers took off Paul's and Silas's robes – and whipped Paul and Silas many times. Paul and Silas were badly injured. Then the soldiers threw Paul and Silas into jail. 24 The jailer put Paul's and Silas's feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying to God – and they were singing songs to God. The other prisoners were listening to Paul and Silas.

26 Suddenly there was a very big earthquake. The jail shook. All the jail doors suddenly opened. And the prisoner's chains came off – and the prisoners were free.

27 The jailer woke up. The jailer saw all the doors open. He thought: Oh no! The prisoners escaped. So the jailer took out his sword – he wanted to kill himself. 28 But Paul shouted, "No! Don't kill yourself! All the prisoners are here."

29 The jailer ran to Paul and Silas – and the jailer knelt at Paul's and Silas's feet. 30 The jailer asked, "What must I do? I want to be saved." 31 Paul and Silas answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your family."

32 Then Paul and Silas told the jailer and the jailer's family about Jesus. 33 The jailer washed Paul's and Silas's injuries. Then the jailer and all his family were baptized.

34 The jailer was very happy, because, now, he and all his family believed in God.

## CONTENT QUESTIONS

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What did God's Holy Spirit tell Paul to do? (chapter 13 verse 2)
- Who went with Paul? (chapter 15 verse 40)
- What did Paul and Silas do in many towns? (chapter 16 verse 5)
- Who did Paul and Silas meet in Philippi? (verse 16)
- What was in (inside) the slave girl? (verse 16)
- What could the slave girl do? (verse 16) Why could she do this?
- Why did the owners like the slave girl? (verse 16)
- How did the slave girl bother Paul and Silas? (verse 17)
- What did Paul say to the bad spirit? (verse 18) And what did the bad spirit do?

What do you think: Did Paul help the slave girl?

- After this, could the slave girl tell the future? (verse 19)
- How did the slave girl's owners feel? (verse 19) And what did they do?

Which do you think is more important: Money or the girl?

- What did the judges and soldiers do to Paul and Silas? (verses 22-23)
  - Where did the jailer put Paul's and Silas's
- What were Paul and Silas doing at midnight in the jail? (verse 25)

Why do you think they were singing and praying to God?

Is this normal (after being whipped and thrown in jail)?

Why can believers in Jesus thank God when things are bad?

**31 God is for us, so no one can be against us! 32 God gave us his Son – so God will give us everything else too. 34 No one can send us to hell – because Jesus died for us – plus Jesus became alive again for us. And now Jesus is sitting with God – and Jesus is our go-between between us and God.**

**35 Nothing can separate us from Jesus' love for us! Not trouble, not hard times, not persecution, not having no food, not having no clothes, not danger, not killing. 37 We win big against all these things because Jesus loves us and helps us. 38-39 I know that nothing can separate us from God's love for**

*us in Jesus – not death or life, not angels or bad spirits, not high places or deep places, not today or the future, not powerful people or powerful governments or powerful spirits – nothing in the universe can separate us from God’s love for us. God gives us his love through Jesus Christ – and Jesus is our Lord!*

Romans 8:31-39

- Who were listening to Paul and Silas? (verse 25)

What do you think the prisoners were thinking?

- Then, what suddenly happened? (verse 26)

Who do you think sent the earthquake?

- What happened to the prisoners? (verse 26)
- What did the jailer see? And think? (verse 27) And what did the jailer start to do?
- What did Paul shout? (verse 28)

Did Paul care about the jailer?

Is that amazing? Are you surprised?

- What did the jailer ask Paul and Silas? (verse 30)

What did the jailer mean by: I want to “be saved”?

Why do you think he asked Paul and Silas?

Why did the jailer think that Paul and Silas could help him?

- What did Paul and Silas answer the jailer? (verse 31)
- Why was the jailer so happy? (verse 34)

Is believing in Jesus only for us? Or is it for our families too?

Why do you think the jailer was happy that all his family believed in Jesus?