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What Must I Do to be Saved

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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?
Acts 16:25-34

I. Life's greatest question comes for people at various times.
   A. Sometimes it's in church.
   B. It can be just before marriage.
   C. Separation from home causes it.
   D. Leadership from teaching prompts it.
   E. It could come at midnite as you are inspired by the examples of others — for one it did!!

II. Events at midnite.
   A. In jail, back's bleeding, feet in stocks, Paul & Silas sang & prayed.
      1. No trouble, however grievous can indispose us to prayer.
      2. True Christian is happier than his most prosperous enemy. 
      3. "Praying, they were singing hymns" — GK expresses one act, not two.
      4. Expect groans, not songs.
      5. Midnite in that jail as well as in pagan world.
      6. People react in various ways to their disasters.
      7. No nite can hide the Christian light.
   B. Prisoners heard.
      1. Would cup slang bars today if you sang & prayed in a midnite jail?
      2. It's one of several hearings that will come from the loud voice of Paul.
      3. Listened eagerly — same interest as in a musical performance.
      4. Suppose jail ever heard such before?
5. It was a free concert.

C. Suddenly a Great Earthquake.
   1. Foundations shaken.
   2. Doors opened.
      (a) Chains unusually fastened to walls, thus can see how loosened.
      (b) Uncanny prisoners retained.

D. Keeper Awakes.
   1. Saw open doors.
   2. Drew Sword.

E. Paul's Loud Voice.
   1. Heard.
      (a) Heard on purpose.
      (b) Do we pretend interest?
   2. Do thyself no harm.
      (a) Christianity teaches "no thyself no harm" - Temperate.
      (b) Heathenism "Destroy Self".
      (c) Chr. says respect body & hold out against corruption.
      (d) He was assured the prisoners had not escaped before he asked salvation qt.
      (e) Peter's jailer killed.

Acts 12:19 "And when Herod had sought for him, and

III. The Jailer's Release.
A. Called for light.
   1. Word for lights is not lamps - maybe torches.
   2. Paul came to proclaim light.
B. Sprang In.
C. Came Trembling.
D. Fell Before Paul & Silas.
E. Brought them out.
F. His question - What must I do?
   1. Salvation now his greatest concern.
   2. Once farthest from heart.
   3. Qt. not what to do to be rich, great, or old - but saved.
   4. It's not about others but about himself.
   5. "Do" - he must act, not a thing of course but action on his part.
   6. He's willing to do anything.
   7. Earnest in his desire to know.
   8. Note the "Sirs" (Lords). Rogues became his masters.
   9. No qt. so important.
   10. Very earnest question - contrast c
Acts 28:12 "Hear of thee what thou thinkest."
11. Qt. asked 3X in Acts.
Acts 2:37 "Now when they heard this, they were pric.
Acts 16:30 "And brought them out, and said, Sirs, wh.
Acts 22:10 "And I said, What shall I do, Lord? and t
(a) Diverse answers, why?
(b) Coffman "How do you get a Ph.D. degree?"
   Ans. vary for H. S. & College student - depends on where you are.
12. Qt. not what must be done for me, but what must I do?
13. He asked those most likely to tell him.
G. The Answer.
1. Not hard on him for any past unkindness.
2. Sought Christ's honor more than own.
3. Give up self & be ruled by Jesus.
4. Please note the they - Silas had a part in it.
5. Note his "house".
   (a) He was a leader in his house.
   (b) Yet no salvation on whole household just because head believed - they all died.
   (c) They all came on same terms.
   (d) All need to ask & all need to have an answer.
   (e) Youth, learning, riches do not exempt from qt.

IV. The Word of the Lord.

A. Believe on Jesus.
   1. What he told him to do 1st was not all he told him.
   2. Belief = intellectual assent plus surrender of will to God.

B. How can they hear w/o preacher.
   1. Spake unto him the word of the Lord.
   2. Required an explanation so they preached.
   3. Spoke word that commanded repentance & baptism.

C. All Heard It.
   1. All of age to understand & believe.
   2. They struck white iron was hot.

D. Repented.
   1. Washed stripes.
   2. Interpreters Bible "Person can live a good life outside the church but cannot live a Christian life outside the church for there is no Christianity w/o the Christian community."
E. Baptized.
1. No quibbling on necessity - they were!
2. Two washings - repentance & regeneration.
3. Everybody got "washed" - 1st Paul, then Jailer.
4. Two cleansings: wounds, sins.
5. No disposition to argue.
6. Chrysostom "He washed & was washed."

F. Went into house.
1. Many movements in this story - in prison - out of prison - into house.
   (a) Jailer trusted them so he took them to his house.
2. Set meat before them.
   (a) Joy of a meal often seen in the Scriptures.
   (b) Work of faith not completed - only begun.
   (c) Faith makes men liberal.
   (d) Fruit of the spirit.

Gal. 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace.
3. Rejoiced.
   (a) Trembling turned to joy.
   (b) Jailer & Lydia - social contrasts - yet gospel for all.
   (c) Believe is synecdoche here for all one does in becoming a Christian.

West End 8-15-76
Gerry, Tyler, Green - Bapt.
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Mitchell - Sted.
Allen & Edgewood - Jackson, Leng. 10-14-76
Marian Fleming - Bapt. Mrs. Rose Staats - Rusk.
Ginna Booth - Bapt. Randy Sullivan - Rusk.
Carol Snider - Rusk. Ricky Bruner - Rusk.
Gerry Copeland - Rusk.

Beard, Little Rock 10-26-76
Fairlade Church, Shelbyville 6-12-77
Mrs. Emmett Mooringham - Rest
Preston Road Church, Dallas 5-28-78
Walnut St. Church, Dickson
Mrs. Brenda Bryant - Rest
West Side Church, Searcy, AR - 2/9/88
Somebody has said that the gospel entered Europe through a sacred concert which was so successful that it brought the house down!

"Growth of the Body" - By Ray C. Stedman - Pages 92-93
Girl
1. Double possess
   men
demons
2. Change
   Jews - racial
destructive power
   illegal religion
   represented by them
3. 1st persecution
   by Gentiles