

A STORY WITH A HAPPY ENDING

Acts 16:23-34

Introduction:

A. Almost every story told today has an unhappy and tragic ending

- 1) Seldom, "And they lived happily ever after"
- 2) A sad fact, most lives do end tragically

B. Here we have a story that ends on a very happy note, Vs. 34

- 1) "rejoiced, and believing"
- 2) Some tragic events interwoven

I. The Jailor and His Work Vs. 23-24

A. He was a man with responsibility

- 1) "charging the jailor"
- 2) "to keep them safely"

B. He was a "professional" man

- 1) "thrust them into the inner prison"
- 2) "made their feet fast in the stocks"

II. The Instruments of God Vs. 25

A. They were conscience of Jesus' presence

- 1) They prayed
- 2) They sang hymns

B. God used them

- 1) "the prisoners heard them"
- 2) The testimony of the slave girl Vs. 17
- 3) Her testimony was clear

III. The Intrusion of God Vs. 26

A. This was to be God's working!

- 1) "suddenly there was a great earthquake"
- 2) "the foundations of the prison were shaken"



B. The gentleness of His power

- 1) "immediately all the doors were opened"
- 2) "everyone's bands were loosed"

IV. The Response of the Jailer Vs. 27

A. He saw his problem

- 1) He was awakened
- 2) He supposed the prisoners had fled
- 3) He was going to kill himself

B. This is the wrong response to trouble

- 1) It was the tradition of the brave
- 2) Germans and Japanese in WWII
- 3) Police Chief of Little Rock, Doc Hale

C. These men were in place Vs. 28

- 1) "Paul cried with a loud voice"
- 2) "Do thyself no harm, we are all here"

D. His submission to God Vs. 29

- 1) "He called for a light and sprang in"
- 2) "trembling, fell before Paul and Silas"

E. His question to God's men Vs. 30

- 1) "and brought them out, and said,"
- 2) "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

V. The Greatest Question Answered Vs. 31

A. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ"

- 1) "Lord" = kurios = "mighty", "principal ruler"
- 2) "Jesus" = "This is the name of a man!"
- 3) "Christ" = Christos = "annointed" = "Messiah"

B. "and thou shalt be saved, and thy house"

- 1) "saved" = sozo = "To save from the penalty of sin!"
- 2) your household may do the same

C. The basis of salvation Vs. 32

- 1) They continued to teach the Bible
- 2) The house was a place of Bible study

VI. The Happy Ending Vs. 33-34

A. He became a "doer" of the word

- 1) "washed their stripes"
- 2) "was baptized"
- 3) "brought them to his house"
- 4) "he set meat before them"
- 5) "he rejoiced"
- 6) "believing in God"

B. What happened to him and his family?

- 1) I don't know!
- 2) Perhaps the same fate
- 3) I thought this is a story with a happy ending! It is no matter what happened it ended God's way.