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 Jailor       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" = kuriōs = "mighty", "principal ruler"
   2) "Jesus" = "This is the name of a man!"
   3) "Christ" = Christos = "anointed" = "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.