

ARISE AND BUILD

Neh. 2:20

“...we his servants will arise and build...”

“From Hopelessness to Holiness”

Act 16:25 And **at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.**

26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

27 And **the keeper of the prison** awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, **and would have killed himself**, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

30 And brought them out, and said, **Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**



31 And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**

32 And **they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.**

33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed *their* stripes; and **was baptized, he and all his, straightway.**

34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and **rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.**

Last week, we began a new series about “*building up our homes*” that will take us up to our “Home Coming Day” on October 20th. We considered an unlikely source in “Rahab the harlot.” She was instrumental in changing the life of her family, but also in becoming a wonderful impact upon the history of mankind.

❖ Rahab’s influence in history has tremendous ramifications!

Mt. 1:5 And **Salmon begat Booz of Rachab**; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;
16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, **of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.**

Ruth 4:21 And **Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed,**
22 And **Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.**

The Word of God gives us an account of a woman who is a very unlikely candidate to be recognized in any “Hall of Fame of Faith,” but yet, there she is in Heb. 11:31.

This morning, we will consider another unlikely source whose life was changed, and, consequently, the life of his family – the Philippian jailor in Acts 16. Let’s look at that chapter in the Word of God and observe the details of how his life and family were radically transformed.

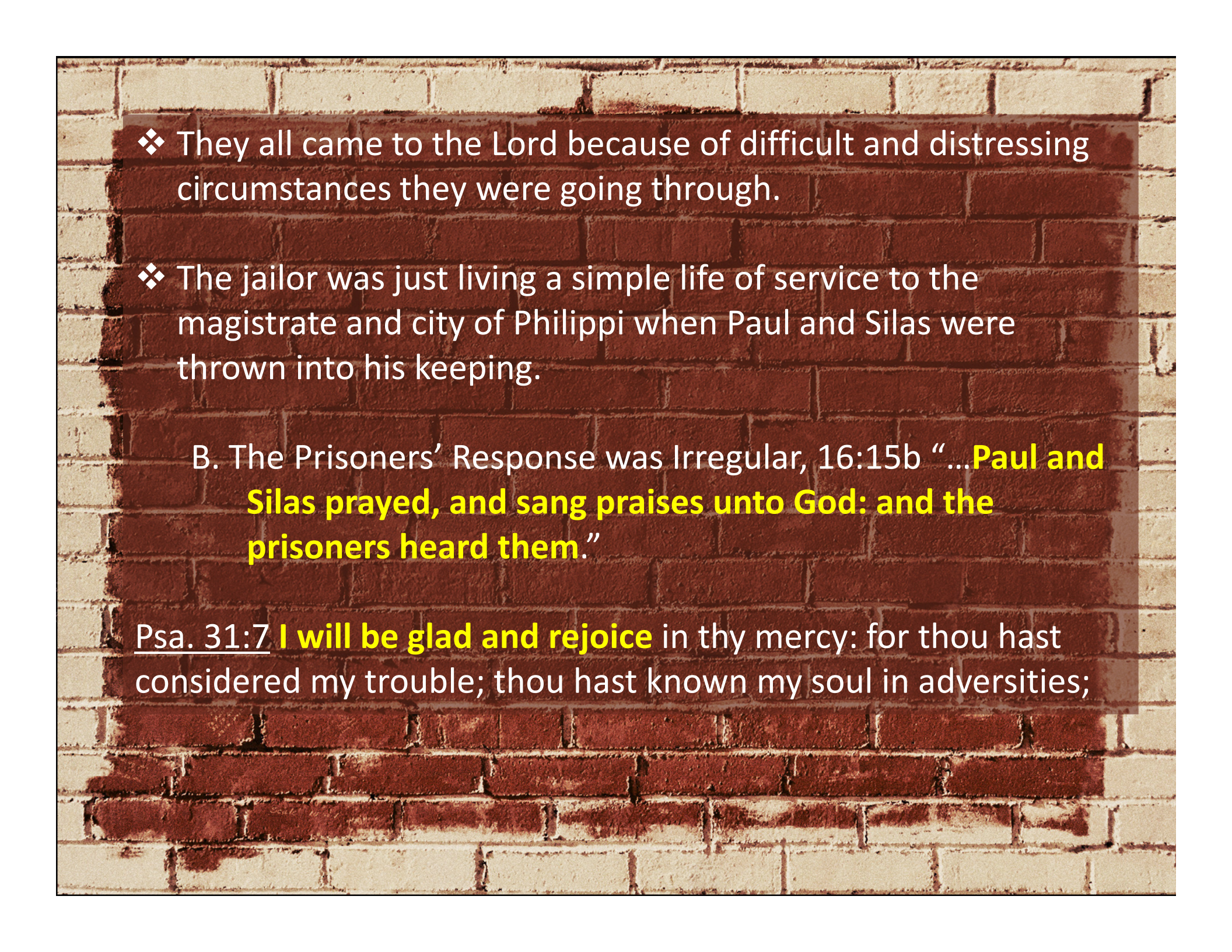
I. THE CONVICTING ACTIONS TO THE JAILOR = THE AWAKENING

A. The Present Routine was Interrupted, 16:25

“And **at midnight Paul and Silas prayed...**”

❖ God often uses circumstances that interrupts individuals in order to lead people to Himself. Many people in the Bible were awakened out of their complacency:

- The Samaritan woman at the well, Jn. 4;
- The prodigal son who “came to himself” in the hog-pen of Lu. 15:17;
- The thief being on the cross for who asked the Lord to remember him;
- The woman taken in adultery in Jn. 8;

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- ❖ They all came to the Lord because of difficult and distressing circumstances they were going through.
 - ❖ The jailor was just living a simple life of service to the magistrate and city of Philippi when Paul and Silas were thrown into his keeping.

B. The Prisoners' Response was Irregular, 16:15b “...**Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.**”

Psa. 31:7 **I will be glad and rejoice** in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities;

Isa. 61:10 **I will greatly rejoice in the LORD**, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels.

Phil. 1:18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and **I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.**

Phil. 2:17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, **I joy, and rejoice with you all.**

Phil. 3:1 Finally, my brethren, **rejoice in the Lord**. To write the same things to you, to me indeed *is* not grievous, but for you *it is* safe.

Phil. 4:4 **Rejoice in the Lord alway:** *and* **again I say, Rejoice.**

1 Pet. 4:13 **But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings;** that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

II. THE CONDITIONS APPARENT TO THE JAILOR = THE ALARMING

A. The Prison was Shaken, 16:26

Act 16:26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

- ❖ An earthquake was alarming, but the possibility of losing prisoners was devastating for the jailor.

B. The Prisoners were Secure, 16:27-28

Act 16:27 And **the keeper of the prison** awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, **and would have killed himself**, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, **Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.**

- ❖ The jailor thought the worst, was planning suicide, but the Lord moved Paul to change the jailor's life.

C. The Pursuit of Salvation, 16:29-30

Act 16:29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, **and came trembling**, and fell down before Paul and Silas,
30 And brought them out, and said, **Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**

- ❖ The jailor humbled himself before Paul and Silas.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit's impact of conviction shook the jailor's soul more than the earthquake!

#FromSuicidetoSalvation

III. THE CONVERSION ACQUIRED BY THE JAILOR = THE ALTERING

A. The Instructions for Faith, 16:31

Act 16:31 And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**

- ❖ The jailor realized that he was missing the peace and joy exhibited by Paul and Silas.
- ❖ The jailor heard what the prisoners heard in Acts 16:25b “...**and the prisoners heard them.**”
- ❖ Before the prisoner's life was altered, he realized that he was lost.

Mark 2:17 When Jesus heard *it*, he saith unto them, **They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

- ❖ Paul and Silas instructed the jailor on what to do: "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Rom. 3:22 Even **the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all** and **upon all them that believe**: for there is no difference:

- ❖ The emphasis from Paul and Silas was FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!

Acts 8:37 And Philip said, **If thou believest with all thine heart,** thou mayest. And he answered and said, **I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**

❖ Religion emphasizes “works” – baptism, eucharist, being a good person, etc.

Eph. 2:8 For **by grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God*:
9 **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

❖ The jailor’s heart and life were changed forever!

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

#FromHopelessnessToHoliness

- ❖ The jailor's heart needed to be right before he could influence his family toward Christ.

B. The Inclusion for the Family, 16:32

Act 16:32 And **they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.**

- ❖ The emphasis by Paul and Silas was upon "the word of the Lord" to the jailor, and then, to his family.
- ❖ When the jailor put his faith in Christ, he was not only instrumental in affecting his earthly family, but, was also adopted into the family of God!

IV. THE COMPANY AROUND THE JAILOR

A. The Faithful Following, 16:33

Act 16:33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed *their* stripes; and **was baptized, he and all his, straightway.**

- ❖ Paul, Silas, and Luke accompanied the jailor to his house.
- ❖ A calloused jailer was moved to compassion for beaten prisoners when his heart was changed!

Eph. 4:32 And **be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted,** forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

B. The Family Fellowship, 16:34

Act 16:34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and **rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.**

- ❖ Imagine the magnitude of change that happened within the jailor's family during that 24-hour period!

#FromExistingtoExhilarating

- ❖ Two men, Paul and Silas, in jail, singing and praising God, impacted not only a jailor, but his entire family.
- ❖ The beginning of a new church in Philippi began with Lydia, and then an unlikely source – a jailor, one man, and then his whole family coming to Christ.



Conclusion

Consider the wonderful experience of the Philippian jailor:

#FromSuicidetoSalvation

#FromHopelessnessstoHoliness

#FromExistingtoExhilarating

Eph. 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

15 Of whom **the whole family in heaven and earth is named,**

16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

17 That **Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,**

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

20 **Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,**

21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.