

"The Second Missionary Journey"

Part 7

Acts 15:41-18:22

Introduction: The past two weeks we have been looking at the events surrounding the greatest question that was ever asked and the answer to that question.

Notice Acts 16:30-31

This is the most important question ever asked, "What must I do to be saved?" Then we read the answer presented in the clearest and most concise statements, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved!" No need to walk an aisle, no need to pray the sinner's prayer, no need to join the church and no need to be baptized. Just simply rest your faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. We are saved by GRACE through FAITH plus nothing else.

Notice Acts 16:31 again.

We need to understand that in order for the jailer's house/his family and all who lived under his roof, to be saved they too would need to hear the Gospel and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ individually. So, the verse could read like this; "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and if your family believes they too will be saved. No person can believe for someone else. Salvation is a personal decision that EACH person must make. It is between each of us and God. No parent can believe for their children or for anyone else. Now there is a passage which someone may use to push back against that statement so let us notice the passage.

Matthew 9:1-2

And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city.

² And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

When we first look at verse 2 it looks like it was the faith of the man's friends that saved him. But it does not say that BECAUSE of their faith Jesus said, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." The verse tells us that Jesus saw the faith of these men and then spoke to the man who was sick of the palsy. I submit to you that all of them had faith in who Jesus was even the man who was on the stretcher. Jesus was able to see his faith as well. The faith of this man's friends was seen by what they did to get this man into the presence of Jesus.

Mark 2:1-5

And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.

² And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.

³ And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.

⁴ And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.

⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

They could not get their friend through the door so they made a hole in the roof and let him down to Jesus. Their faith moved them to go to this length to get their friend to Jesus for healing. This made their faith visible to all who were there. But it was not just their faith. The sick man was in on the plan also. He had faith in who Jesus was. Keep in mind that the first century Jews were looking for the Messiah and this group of men believed Jesus was the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15 and the One who the Old Testament prophets wrote of. Now their faith certainly contributed to the salvation of this man in that it was their faith that moved them to get him into the presence of Jesus. But it had to be the faith of the sick man that saved him as He believed that Jesus was the Son of God.

Our faith can certainly play a major part in the salvation of an unsaved friend. How? It is our faith that drives us to pray for their salvation. We believe that if they come to Jesus that He will save them so we labor in prayer to bring them before the Lord.

Matthew 21:22

²² And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Notice Acts 16:33

Those who were saved were baptized "straightway" which means immediately. This was not a requirement for salvation but it was the very first step in obedience for these people. We have considered this many times but I will say it again. Baptism is not required for salvation. Baptism is the act of publicly identifying with Jesus Christ in His death, burial,

and resurrection. This is why we immerse people and do not sprinkle. To immerse them is a picture of the death and burial of Jesus Christ and then when they come out of the water that is a picture of the resurrection. In the first century to be baptized was to put your life in danger because of how much Jesus was hated. The baptism back then was proof that a person was saved and they were serious about their faith.

Acts 2:37-38

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Notice Acts 16:34

I want to look at the joy which had now come into this man's house. They had come to know the Lord and now they were able to rejoice. This is interesting because we do not know what happened to the other prisoners. This jailer may still face punishment and even death if they were not to be found. But even in the face of suffering this man was able to rejoice.

Application:

This is what accompanies salvation, peace, and joy in the midst of the storms. This is why Paul and Silas could sing and praise God while locked in stocks in the prison. Notice what is said of the wise men who sought out Jesus when He was young.

Matthew 2:9-11

⁹ When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

¹¹ And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

Let us notice what Jesusa told His disciples.

John 15:4-5, 10

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

¹⁰ If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

¹¹ These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

Psalm 16:11

¹¹ Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

The jailer and his house found what our world today is looking for. This joy is not found in a politician nor is it found in circumstances, but it is found in the Man Jesus Christ and it is experienced in a relationship with Him.

➤ The Release

Notice Acts 16:35-36

The serjeants here are the very men who carried out the beating of Paul and Silas.

Application:

When I was putting this study together the Lord put a thought in my mind that flows from this text. Sometimes it is the very same thing that brought the pain that in the end sets us free. It was the pain caused by these men that eventually brought about the salvation/freedom of the jailer. There have been many people in this world who have faced very painful situations in life and it was because of those situations that they came to know the Lord so they were freed from the power and the penalty of sin. Many have faced terminal illness which has been used by the Lord to bring them to Jesus Christ.

There is also another way to apply this thought. There are times when believers get involved in sin of some kind or they get attached to something that takes them away from the Lord. It has happened in these situations that pain has come about because of what they have become attached to and the pain has actually been used to set them free from the attachment.

Psalm 119:67-71

⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now have I kept thy word.

⁶⁸ Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.

⁶⁹ The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart.

⁷⁰ Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in thy law.

⁷¹ It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

I want to just comment on verse 70 and the fat heart like grease. What does this mean? The fat heart speaks of two things.

- a. It is not lean and hungry. The fat heart is content with what it is attached to. The believer is to have a lean heart that is never spiritually satisfied but always hungering for more of the Lord.
- b. It speaks of a heart that has no fire or burning in it. It was always on the altar that the fat was consumed by the fire. In a fat heart there is no fire for God, no burning to know more of Him.

Back to the point, that which brings the pain can be a good thing for us because it can lead to freedom.

Hebrews 12:5-11

⁵ And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

⁶ For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

⁷ If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

⁸ But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

⁹ Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

¹⁰ For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

¹¹ Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Notice Acts 16:37-40

Paul knew the laws of Rome and, being a Roman citizen, he had rights and his rights had been violated. He therefore wanted those who violated his rights to face him when he was released. Notice the words of Gaebelin.

These authorities did not realize that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens and they feared once they learned this fact. The Emperor could have punished that city and its leadership for treating Roman citizens in such a way. The Roman government was very protective of Roman citizens. "Immunity from corporal punishment was one of the most valued privileges of Roman citizenship."

Conclusion:

Application:

Paul made sure that those who had committed the sin against him and Silas were confronted to their faces. This is a good reminder to all of us that sin must not be ignored or overlooked. It must be confronted no matter how uncomfortable the situation may be.

Leviticus 19:17

¹⁷ Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.