

APRIL 23, 1989

MATTHEW 5:10

ACTS 16:22-34

PAUL AND SILAS

PAUL WAS A MISSIONARY PREACHER WHO MADE PREACHING TRIPS TO MANY DIFFERENT CITIES AND COUNTRIES TO PREACH ABOUT JESUS AND HELP TEACH CHURCH MEMBERS.

SOMETIMES PAUL PREACHED TO PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT SAVED YET, THESE PEOPLE HAD NOT TRUSTED JESUS AND ASKED JESUS TO BE THEIR VERY OWN SAVIOR. SO PAUL WOULD PREACH TO THEM ABOUT THEIR SINS AND WOULD TELL THEM THEY NEEDED JESUS TO BE THEIR SAVIOR.

SOME OF THESE PEOPLE WOULD GET VERY ANGRY AT PAUL. SOMETIMES THESE PEOPLE WOULD BEAT PAUL OR STONE HIM BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO STOP PAUL FROM PREACHING.

IN ACTS 16 THE BIBLE TELLS ABOUT A TIME WHEN PAUL AND ANOTHER MISSIONARY PREACHER, SILAS, WERE PREACHING AND TEACHING IN PHILIPPI.

THE PEOPLE IN THAT CITY GOT VERY ANGRY AT PAUL & SILAS BECAUSE THEY TAUGHT A FORTUNE TELLER AND GOT HER TO STOP TELLING FORTUNES. HER BOSSES WERE VERY ANGRY BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN MAKING LOTS OF MONEY FROM HER FORTUNE TELLING.

THE FORTUNE TELLER'S BOSSES GOT SO ANGRY THAT THEY CAPTURED PAUL & SILAS AND TOOK THEM TO THE CITY LEADERS. THE BOSSES TOLD THE LEADERS OF THE CITY THAT PAUL & SILAS WERE CAUSING TROUBLE IN THE CITY. AFTER THEY SAID THAT, A WHOLE CROWD OF PEOPLE IN THE CITY WANTED TO PUNISH PAUL & SILAS.

THE CITY LEADER MADE PAUL & SILAS TAKE THEIR SHIRTS OFF, AND THEN SOME SOLDIERS BEAT PAUL & SILAS OVER AND OVER. THEN THE SOLDIERS PUT PAUL & SILAS IN PRISON.

THE JAILER WAS TOLD TO MAKE SURE THAT PAUL & SILAS DID NOT GET AWAY. SO THE JAILER PUT PAUL & SILAS IN THE STOCKS.

PAUL & SILAS TRUSTED GOD TO TAKE CARE OF THEM. AT MIDNIGHT ^{WHILE} PAUL & SILAS SAT THERE LOCKED UP IN THE STOCKS, THEY SANG SONGS PRAISING GOD AND ^{THEY} PRAYED TO GOD. ALL THE OTHER PRISONERS COULD HEAR PAUL & SILAS SINGING & PRAYING.

SUDDENLY THERE WAS A VERY STRONG EARTHQUAKE THAT SHOOK THE PRISON SO HARD THAT THE DOORS POPPED OPEN AND THE PRISONERS CHAINS AND STOCKS FELL OFF.

THE JAILER HAD BEEN ASLEEP. HE WOKE UP WHEN THE EARTHQUAKE CAME.

THE JAILER WAS AFRAID THE PRISONERS WOULD ESCAPE SINCE THE DOORS HAD POPPED OPEN. HE KNEW HE WOULD PROBABLY BE KILLED BY THE SOLDIERS IF ALL THE PRISONERS ESCAPED; SO HE GOT OUT HIS SWORD AND WAS GOING TO KILL HIMSELF.

PAUL YELLED LOUDLY, "DON'T HURT YOURSELF, WE ARE ALL STILL HERE!"

THE JAILER GOT A LIGHT AND WENT IN TO TALK TO PAUL & SILAS. THE JAILER ASKED PAUL & SILAS "WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?"