

SUNDAY, JUNE 2 | In the light

Acts 16:27-29 27The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. 28But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!” 29The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas.

It may seem foreign for us to think of a person killing themselves in this situation. If a jailer failed to keep his prisoners in place, he would face death himself. Also, it was a heroic act to kill himself on his own sword if they had escaped. Paul was more concerned about saving a life and doing no harm. Knowing that they and all the other prisoners were still there was surprising information to the jailer. Who would believe criminals wouldn’t take a chance to bolt if their chains fell off and the prison doors swung open?

Seeing they were all there after this series of events, the jailer ran in and fell at the feet of Paul and Silas. There was a reverence, “fell trembling”, for the men he had earlier just put in stocks.

An interesting point is he was in darkness when he drew his sword and was going to kill himself. He had no interest in light. Once he was “delivered from the temptation” he asks for lights. Not only was he delivered from the temptation of killing himself, but he saw Paul and Silas differently. The powerful God the girl said they served and the salvation they knew of, the jailer was interested in knowing himself.

Sometimes it takes an extraordinary event or crisis in a person’s life for them to turn to Christ. I’m certainly not saying what Paul and Silas did in the face of their circumstances was easy! But they did make the very best out of their situation. It wasn’t anything crazy. God used it to turn the heart of this jailer.

We don’t need to come up with a crazy scheme to win people over or change their mind about Christ and Christianity. We need to make the best out of our circumstances. Live our life daily with thanksgiving and praise on our lips. You know, that’s good news because that’s a big enough task most days. I have to keep reminding myself that, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13.

Q. When has Christ given you strength lately? I bet you could fill up a page! Thank God for all he’s done and continues to do.

MEMORY VERSE Philippians 2:12 – “So then, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now even more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and understanding.”