

## MONDAY, JUNE 3 | An about face

*Acts 16:30-34 30He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” 31They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” 32Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. 34The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.*

I’ll be honest. There are a lot of things in these verses that I have always glossed over and have gone straight to the jailer and his whole household being saved. I’m not sure why because there’s so much here!

The fact the jailer was asleep should have caught my attention! Part of the fear in his voice was he had been sleeping when he shouldn’t have been, and when he woke up the prisoners had every possibility to run away. With those two issues reconciled, the jailer was still trembling in fear and went to Paul and Silas. Maybe he was remembering the cries of the girl in the street, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” Somehow he understood these men knew the way to salvation. The uproar of the earthquake and the prisoners’ chains falling off provoked much thought regarding the salvation of his soul.

The jailer brings Paul and Silas out. This could have been to another part of the jail or out of the jail completely. It’s unclear, but he removes them from the inner part of the jail where they had been placed. He then addresses them as ‘sirs’ as a sign of respect, much differently than you would a prisoner. Paul and Silas tell the jailer he must believe in the Lord Jesus and he will be saved – he and his household. On the surface it sounds like a blanket statement that his household will be saved if the jailer believes. That’s not what’s happening. They are telling the jailer that this opportunity is available to him and his household. Household here could have meant his family and, or the persons in the house at the time – including the prisoners.

When we see in verse 32 that the word of the Lord was spoken to the jailer and “to all the others in his house”, it doesn’t mean it was exclusive to his family, or if it actually was his family. The Greek word is defined as “an inhabited edifice, a dwelling, all who are in the house”. It is cause for celebration either way! Many more than just ONE person accepted Christ and were baptized that night!

I am still upset that I have overlooked verse 33. The jailer took Paul and Silas into his house, whether that was separate or attached to the jail, and he washed their wounds. The jailer shows such humanity by tending to their wounds. His heart was softened immediately upon conversion and began ‘ministering’ to them. He took care of their wounds then he fed them. He had joy that he had not experienced before. Joy of salvation and of knowing others had received salvation too.

It is wonderful to see the transformation that takes place when someone receives Christ as their Savior. Burdens are lifted and their outlook changes. There will be much to learn in the future, but clarity is given when a person believes by faith Jesus is the way to salvation. And does this show us that wounds of others may be healed? Will others be filled, as Paul and Silas were by being fed by the jailer? I think so. If just one of my friends or family members who were lost came to Christ, my heart would be full! There would be wounds healed and forgotten. It brings so much joy!

**Response:** Think back to when a loved one received Christ. Pray for your lost family and friends today.

**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.”