

# Conversions In Acts

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## The Jailer & His Household's Conversion

(Ac 16:25-34)

### INTRODCUTION

1. Good Morning
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons from Acts based on the "Conversions In Acts."
  - a. Last week we looked at "Lydia & Her Household's Conversion."
    - i. **Ac 16:11-15** "So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. 13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. 14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. 15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us."<sup>1</sup>
    - b. This week we are going to look at "The Jailer & His Household's Conversion."
      - i. **Ac 16:30-33** "Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family."
3. Our four questions continue today.
  - a. What led to the conversions?
  - b. What was said to the non-Christians?
  - c. What was the mentality of the new converts?
  - d. How can knowing this help us help others?

### I. What Led To The Conversion?

- A. Paul & Silas are in prison
  1. They were in prison for removing a demon from a slave girl.
    - i. That demon was removed so as to make sure that God & demons were not considered synonymous.
      - a. **Mk 3:29** "but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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2. They were placed in the inner prison.
  - i. Their feet were placed in stocks & most likely hands chained around some sort of pillar.
    - a. This allowed for an uncomfortable position where one could not find any relief from the beatings from the rod.
- B. Paul & Silas are worshipping
  1. About midnight they are praying and singing hymns to God.
    - i. What an amazing reality.
  2. The other prisoners were listening to them pray and worship.
- C. The ground shook
  1. As they were worshipping God there was an earthquake.
  2. As the earthquake took place the bonds of all the prisoners was loosed.
  3. As the bonds were loosed the doors were opened as well.
- D. The jailer woke up from his nap to find the doors open
  1. Assuming the prisoners were gone he began to kill himself.
    - i. This was considered the honorable thing to do for a jailer who found himself in this position.
    - ii. This way he wouldn't have to be brought before everyone for trial and his family humiliated.
- E. Paul stopped the jailer from killing himself
  1. He told him that everyone was still there.
    - i. Think about the fact that even those that were not Christians there in prison, who's bonds were loosed, were still there and did not flee.
- F. The jailer and his household are saved.
  1. The jailer asks the most important question for a non-Christian.
    - i. "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"
  2. Paul & Silas responded...
    - i. "Have faith in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."
    - ii. They then went on to speak "the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house."
  3. The jailer, after washing the wounds of Paul & Silas, was baptized with all his family.
- G. Thus...
  1. What led to the conversions...was there anything that got the conversions going...yes it was Paul & Silas preaching the Word of the Lord.

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### II. What Was Said To The Non-Christians?

#### A. Paul & Silas preached...

1. The need for faith in the Lord Jesus.
  - i. The word “believe and the word faith are one in the same.”
    - a. The Greek word for “belief” comes from the Greek word “faith.”
    - b. The Greek word “faith” comes from the Greek word for “persuasion.”
  - ii. Thus we find Paul saying they needed to be persuaded that Jesus was Lord.
    - a. This is the reason why Paul & Silas preached the Word of the Lord to them. There is only one way to achieve faith or persuasion that Jesus is Lord.
      1. **Ro 10:17** “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”
      2. **He 11:1, 6** “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (NKJV)
2. The need for repentance.
  - i. Before the jailer and his household were baptized the jailer washed the wounds of Paul & Silas.
  - ii. Why did Paul allow this to take place and “waste time” before they were baptized? (facetious question obviously)
    - a. Because it wasn’t a waste of time!!!!
    - b. When one finds themselves in a need of repentance one finds themselves having to act upon that repentance.
3. The need for baptism.
  - i. With the household having been persuaded in Jesus being Lord and repented they were now baptized.
    - a. Notice the jailer’s faith was not the reason the household was baptized. It was based on their own faith i.e. persuasion that Jesus was Lord.
  - ii. Baptism was no “after thought” concerning salvation, no it was the culminating factor in salvation.
    - a. One cannot become a Christian without baptism in water because one cannot obey the gospel without it.
      1. **I Co 15:3-4** “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures”

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2. **Ro 6:3-5** “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”

B. Thus...

1. What was said to the non-Christians...was there any specific doctrine mentioned...yes they were taught the need for putting their faith in Jesus and what it meant to do so which is being obedient to the gospel.

### III. What Was The Mentality Of The New Converts?

A. They became very hospitable

1. This is becoming a trend we cannot ignore.
2. Just like with Cornelius and Lydia we find the jailer and his household being very hospitable.
  - i. Paul & Silas were given food to eat to help them regain their strength.

B. They became extremely happy

1. What a joyous time to have not only yourself become as white as snow from sin but your entire household.
  - i. This would have not only been family members but also servants, anyone living with the jailer and his family at the time.

C. Thus...

1. What was the mentality of the new converts...was there anything surprising after their conversion in their attitude or actions...sure we see them being very hospitable and rejoicing in their salvation.

### IV. How Can Knowing This Help Us Help Others?

A. Knowing this helps us understand a fundamental truth concerning opportunity

1. Circumstances do not change objectives.
  - i. Our responsibility as Christians is to teach the lost no matter what situation we find ourselves in.
    - a. If things are going well we teach the lost.
    - b. If things are going poorly we teach the lost.
    - c. If things are going horribly we teach the lost.
  - ii. **Mk 16:15** “And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”

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- B. Knowing this helps us understand that teaching is more than preaching
1. It is very obvious that Paul & Silas had made the jailer aware that he was lost and in need of salvation.
    - i. However we only find Paul & Silas praying and singing.
      - a. Let us never forget the power that pray and song has on the lost soul.
        1. **Co 3:16** "... teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."
- C. Knowing this helps us understand that repentance is a prerequisite to baptism
1. This is something we all say and know mentally.
    - i. However the practice of this is found to vary quite dramatically person to person and congregation to congregation unfortunately.
  2. Consider what I mean by that...
    - i. Examples:
      - a. If the local drunk wants to study and then learns he needs to be baptized but is unwilling to repent and give up the booze he cannot be baptized for the forgiveness of sins and as such we should not be willing to baptize him.
      - b. If a couple comes to study the Bible and learns they need to be baptized but you find out during the study that they have both been divorced and you ask them about it thus learning they are in an adulterous relationship. Upon telling them they are unwilling to repent and get out of that marriage we cannot baptize them because they have not repented.
  3. We cannot help others if we are selves are unwilling to help people truly understand what repentance is.
    - i. **Ac 17:30** "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent"
    - ii. **Lk 24:47** "and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."
- D. Knowing this helps us understand the fundamental responses of new creations
1. It has become obvious that hospitality is a fundamental response.
    - i. There has only been one case where there was not a gathering of the saved either specifically mentioned or implied and that is the Ethiopian eunuch.
      - a. **He 13:2** "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers..."
      - b. **Ro 12:13** "...seek to show hospitality."
  2. It has become obvious that rejoicing is a fundamental response.
    - i. With the understanding comes the expectation and then the realization that one is as white as snow having their sins removed and that they are now adopted by God as His child.
    - ii. The natural response if proper realization has taken hold...rejoicing.
      - a. **Ph 4:4** "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice."

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### CONCLUSION

1. Brethren let us hold fast to the principles we have learned not only today but throughout this series of lessons.
  - a. Let us not waiver in our dedication to applying these lessons to those in the world that are spiritually lost and dying.
2. Question: Are you applying the lessons you have learned?
  - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
  - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
    - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
    - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
    - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
    - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**