

The Most Important Question

There is no greater question that a person can ask in life than the very question found in Acts 16.

What must I do to be saved?

This question was asked by a rugged jailer. It might surprise us to hear a question like that asked by a man like him, but even more surprising, is what God had to do to get this man to finally ask that question.

GOD WILL GO TO EXTREME MEASURES TO SAVE EVEN ONE.

What did God have to do to bring this man to salvation? As I see it, God took four extreme steps.

Step #1 - God set up a meeting by allowing His servants to get thrown in prison. **16:16-25**

In verses 16 through 25, we find God, working behind the scenes, setting up a meeting. The meeting would be between the Philippian jailer and the two of God's servants - Paul and Silas. God wanted to get the gospel

to this man, and how would he do that? By sending Paul and Silas to prison.

In the blink of an eye, it's as though Paul and Silas's world collapsed. They were bothered, attacked, accused, beaten, and tossed in prison.

But none of this escaped the sovereign hand of God. God allowed their world to collapse because He had a plan. God was setting up a meeting.

I think we learn a principle here - especially for those who want to be used by God. **God is okay with His servants going through terrible things in this life.** Why? Let me give you just 2 reasons.

#1 - God's servants have eternal life. That means the pain and hardship is only temporary. One day God will wipe away every tear and take away all the pain.

#2 - God uses it to bring others to salvation. God was okay with letting His servants face temporary pain because it was the means God used to save an entire family.

Paul and Silas understood that. Whatever pain they faced for serving Jesus was only temporary, and

whatever trial they faced just may have been for the advancement of the gospel. That is why I believe they had the strength to sing that night.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,

When God permits you to suffer in the name of the Lord Jesus, He makes sure to give you the supernatural strength to sing amid the suffering. God will carry us through the trials He allows us to face.

Step #2 - God struck the man with fear by allowing him to come face-to-face with death. **16:26-30**

*29 And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and **trembling with fear** he fell down before Paul and Silas.
30 Then he brought them out and said, “**Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**”*

God had struck this man with fear. He became afraid to face God unsaved.

For many people, it takes a near-death experience mixed with the fear of eternal condemnation to finally get them to wake up to the gospel of the grace of God.

Step #3 - God saved the man by allowing him to hear the preaching of Christ. **16:31-34**

31 And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

That’s the answer. That is the complete answer of the way of salvation.

Believe: to put your faith in; to rest your confidence on; to trust.

in: upon. It’s a word that designates where your faith must rest. It must rest on...

the Lord: master; owner; indicating power, authority, and supremacy.

Jesus: savior; God is salvation. Rest your faith upon the God (Lord) Savior (Jesus).

and

you will be saved: to be kept from harm: to be rescued; to be brought out safely.

Step #4 - God sent His servants on their way by allowing them to be released from prison. **16:35-40**

God let them go to jail for one night so He could accomplish the goal of salvation. The next day God sent them on their way.

I believe their vindication shows us that one day, no matter what we go through in this life, if we have done what the Lord Jesus has called us to do, God will vindicate us. He will prove us to be in the right. It may not be the next day, but someday, in eternity, it will all be worth it.

God will go to extreme measures to save even one.

Will you let God use you in extreme measures so He can save one?