

**PAUL AND SILAS IN PHILIPPI**

New Testament Lesson #141

In Philippi (fi-LIP-eye), Paul and Silas looked for the place people met to pray. They found it by the river-side and began to teach the women who had gathered there.

One of the women was Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth and a worshiper of God. She was glad to hear Paul's message of Jesus and was baptized.

A slave girl in the city earned money telling fortunes. She followed Paul and his group, often shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." Paul grew weary of the shouting, so he finally commanded the spirit to leave her.

The girl's owners were furious when they realized they wouldn't be able to use her anymore to make money. They dragged Paul and Silas into the marketplace to the authorities, saying that they were making trouble in the city. The magistrates had them stripped, beaten without a trial and sent to prison.

Paul and Silas were not afraid. At midnight, the other prisoners heard them singing hymns and praying. Suddenly an earthquake shook the prison doors open, and the chains fell from the prisoners! When the jailer awoke and saw the doors open, he thought the prisoners had escaped. He prepared to kill himself, but Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" The jailer knelt at the feet of Paul and Silas and asked how to be saved.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved — you and your household," they said. Paul and Silas taught the jailer and his family the gospel and baptized them. The jailer washed Paul's and Silas' sore backs and invited them to his home for a meal. In the morning, the magistrates asked Paul and Silas to leave their city.

**POINTS TO CONSIDER:**

- Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, and they should not have been beaten and jailed without a trial.
- Jesus had promised a blessing on people in this sort of circumstance in Matthew 5:11-12.

**Paul and Silas in Philippi**

- I. Paul and Silas met many kinds of people when they preached.
  - A. They baptized Lydia, the woman who sold purple cloth.
  - B. They were followed by a young girl fortuneteller who annoyed them.
- II. Paul commanded the spirit that enabled the girl to tell fortunes to leave her.
  - A. She could no longer earn money telling fortunes.
  - B. Her owners were mad and had Paul and Silas arrested.
- III. Paul and Silas stayed in prison.
  - A. They sang hymns and prayed.
  - B. They were chained and guarded.
  - C. An earthquake released their chains, and the jailer awoke.
- IV. The jailer was frightened and tried to kill himself.
  - A. Paul and Silas stopped him.
  - B. The jailer asked how to be saved.
  - C. Paul and Silas told him and his family about Jesus and baptized them.
- V. Paul and Silas left the city unharmed.

**ANSWER KEY:**

not, afraid, sang, hymns, prayed, earthquake, shook, door, open, chains, fell, away, jailer, prisoners, escaped, kill, himself, stopped, jailer, how, saved

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved — you and your household."