

29a. The Jailor – Part One

In the previous story we heard about one of Jesus' disciples, Philip, who was led by the Holy Spirit to go and tell the story of Jesus and God's truth.

I will now tell you about two other followers of Jesus. One was named Paul and the other was named Silas. They were also going from one city to another, telling the good news of Jesus. (Acts 8:4; 15:40–41)

On a day that was a Sabbath, Paul and Silas came to the city of Philippi. Maybe there might be someone who would worship God besides the river, they were thinking. They went over and saw some women there. They sat down and talked to the women about God's truth and the good news of Jesus. (Acts 16:12–13)

Among those women, there was a business owner who sold cloth. She was a person who worshipped God. She listened attentively to the good news that Paul and Silas were sharing. God allowed this woman business owner to understand that Jesus was God's son, and was the Savior that God has given to man. After she heard this good news, she believed. Then this woman business owner and her family members were baptized and they accepted Jesus as their God. (Acts 16:14–15)

This woman business owner also invited Paul and Silas to stay at her home as guests. She told Paul and Silas, "If you think I really believe in Jesus, please stay at my home." Therefore, Paul and Silas stayed at her home as guests. (Acts 16:15)

One day, Paul and Silas wanted to go to a place of prayer. They met a woman who was possessed by a demon. This woman's master used the power of the demon inside her to make money. (Acts 16:16)

Everyday this woman followed Paul and Silas and kept shouting: "These two men are working for the Most High God. They came to tell people here about the good news that God has given to man." (Acts 16:17)

This demon-possessed woman kept following behind them for a few days. Every day she would shout the same words. Paul was annoyed by this, so he turned around and told the demon, "I use the name of Jesus Christ to order you, 'Come out of her!'" The demon immediately came out of the woman and left. (Acts 16:18)

29b. The Jailor – Part Two

However, the owner of the demon-possessed woman was not happy, because the thing that made him money was now gone. So, he grabbed Paul and Silas and took them to the judge, telling the judge, “These two men are the ones causing confusion in our city, teaching us to do things that we have never done before.” (Acts 16:19–21)

The judge had his soldier whip Paul and Silas, and then had them locked them up inside the prison. He also had the soldier keep a close watch on them and be sure they would not escape. (Acts 16:22–24)

It was about midnight one night when Paul and Silas were inside the prison, praying and singing songs to praise God. The other prisoners there were listening. At that moment, there was a strong earthquake. At once, all the prison doors opened up. (Acts 16:26)

The prison guard soldier woke up and saw that all the doors inside the prison were open. He thought all the prisoners had escaped. So, he held up his sword and was about to kill himself. Paul saw this and shouted, “Do not hurt yourself, we are all here!” (Acts 16:27–28)

The prison guard soldier took a lamp and went inside. He saw Paul and Silas were still in there. He was afraid and shaken. After a while, the prison guard brought Paul and Silas out, and then asked them, “What should I do, so that God can forgive my sins?” (Acts 16:29–30)

Paul and Silas answered him, “You have to believe that Jesus is your Savior. Do you know that after you receive Jesus, your family members will also have the hope of reconciliation with God?” (Acts 16:31–32)

After this, Paul and Silas talked to the prison guard’s family members about God’s truth. That night, they all got baptized. This prison guard also invited Paul and Silas to go to his own home to eat. He and his family were very happy because now they believed in Jesus. (Acts 16:34)

The next morning, the judge sent people to release Paul and Silas from the prison. They then went back to the home of the woman business owner who sold cloth. There they met many who believed in Jesus. Paul and Silas comforted these people and helped them. They then went on to another city to continue telling the story of Jesus. (Acts 16:35, 40; 17:1)