

30. Jesus Will Be Back

Introduction: In the previous story, Paul and Silas went to the city of Philippi. There they helped a woman and drove away the demon that possessed her. But then the woman's master had Paul and Silas arrested and they were thrown into prison. There, Paul and Silas told the good news of Jesus to the prison guard and his family. Then they all believed in Jesus and were baptized. (Acts 16:18–24, 34)

After this, Paul and Silas left the city of Philippi, and continued on to another city called Thessalonica. Paul told the Hebrew people there about the story of Jesus. He said, "I am telling you about this Jesus who is the Savior that God has promised us. By trusting in Him we can be reconciled in our relationship with God." (Acts 17:1–3)

Many Hebrew people believed what Paul said. But there were some Hebrew people that were not happy. They asked some street mobs to cause confusion in the city. These mobs went to the home of a Jesus' believer, in order to catch Paul and Silas. (Acts 17:4–5)

They could not find them for they were hidden. So they grabbed those Jesus' believers and took them to see the judge. They accused them in front of the judge, saying, "Among this group of man, there is this man who hosted Paul and Silas, the pair who came to confuse us." (Acts 17:6–7)

People from the whole city were afraid of the mobs and those who asked the mobs to cause trouble, especially those with authority. But the judge eventually released those Jesus' believers. In the evening, those Jesus' believers sent Paul and Silas away quietly. (Acts 17:8–10)

Although they left this city, Paul kept thinking of those Jesus believers back there. He kept trying to find ways to return to where they were, but he could not go. Therefore, Paul asked a Jesus' believer named Timothy, to go to that city to comfort those Jesus believers back there and to help them. (1 Thessalonians 1:17–18; 3:2)

Timothy went there, and came back later. He told Paul about the condition of those Jesus believers living in that city. Paul was very happy, because those believers continued in their belief in Jesus. Therefore, Paul decided, together with Silas and Timothy, to write a letter to them. (1 Thessalonians 1:1; 3:6–8)

In the letter, Paul wrote this, "We always give thanks to God because of you all. In front of God, we always talk about all of you. (1 Thessalonians 1:2)

"Although you are persecuted and hurt by others, still you continue to rely on God's Holy Spirit and to believe the good news of Jesus. What you are doing is an example to all those who believe in Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 1:6–7)

"Many Jesus' believers speak about how you no longer worship demons, but only believe in God, the true God. You worship God alone, and really put your hope in Jesus, who is coming back from the sky, after God first let Jesus die and be raised again. (1 Thessalonians 1:9–10)

"When the time comes for Jesus to come back from the sky, those Jesus believers who are already dead will rise again first. Then we who are still alive will all come together with them and we will all be brought up by God in the clouds and will meet Jesus in the sky. From that time on, we will be with Jesus forever. Don't you know? You should use these words to comfort each other and help each other." (1 Thessalonians 4:16–18)