The Late Night Baptism of a Jailer
Acts 16:25-35

Introduction:
A. Paul and Silas imprisoned on trumped up charges. (vv. 19-24).
B. Paul and Silas released by a midnight earthquake. (vv. 25-27).
C. Our concern, in this lesson, is with the significant events surrounding the Jailer’s baptism.
   1. What happened before he was baptized?
   2. What happened when he was baptized?
   3. What happened after he was baptized?

Discussion:
I. Significant Events Before the Jailer Was Baptized.
A. Jailer prevented from suicide. (vv. 27-28).
   1. Preferred suicide to likely punishment. (cf. Acts 12:19)
   2. Suicide only compounds one's problem rather solving it - self-murder.
   3. Such need to understand that they really have something to live for.
   4. We will see what he would have missed had he ended his life.
B. Jailer asked most important question. (v. 29-30).
   1. Not to be saved earthquake - already over.
   2. Not to be saved from Roman punishment - prisoners all there.
   3. But to be saved from sin and its wages. (cf. Rom. 6:23).
C. Jailer given the answer he needed. (v. 31).
   1. Was an unbelieving pagan.
D. Jailer given the information he needed. (v. 32).
   1. Could not believe in Him of whom had not heard. (Rom. 10:14).
   2. Could not hear without a preacher. (Rom. 10:15-17, 8)
E. Jailer shows evidence of repentance. (v. 33a)
   1. Had been party to their stripes, now washes them.
   2. Repentance: change of mind prompted by godly sorrow & followed reformation. (cf. 2 Cor. 7:10)

II. Significant Events When the Jailer was Baptized.
A. Jailer was baptized immediately. (v. 33b).
   1. Without waiting for church vote or authority.
   2. Indicative of the urgency of the matter - needed to be saved immediately.
B. Jailer was baptized away from his house.
   1. Not told where, but could have been in the river. (v. 13).
   2. Not necessary to leave house if sprinkling or pouring were baptism.
C. Jailer was baptized with his family. (v. 33b).
   1. Family also believed (v. 34), so no infants were involved.
   2. Wonderful when families united with Christ and in Him.

III. Significant Events After the Jailer was Baptized.
A. Jailer and family rejoiced after baptism rather than before. (v. 34b).
   1. Had reason to rejoice - was saved. (cf. Mk. 16:16).
   3. Had been added to church (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13).
B. Jailer began practicing his new religious by showing hospitality. (v. 34a).
   1. May not have yet known command to “be hospitable to one another . . . (1 Pet. 4:9).
   2. Likely flowed from joy and gratitude for salvation - should it not be so with us?
C. Jailer, by order of magistrates, attempts to release Paul and Silas from custody. (v. 35,36).
   1. They refused their secret attempt to correct an open injustice. (v. 37).
   2. We need more like them today - need to insist on open correction for open sin.

Conclusion:
A. Do you have the same reasons to rejoice as the jailer and his family?
B. If you believe, why not repent and be baptized as they did?