



A Prison Break

Where Zero Prisoners Escaped

Acts 16:16-40

Storyline:

1. Paul and Silas were jailed because their _____ activities interfered with someone's ability to make _____. (vs 16-24)
2. _____ opinion caused them to be beaten with rods and thrown in jail. (vs 22-24)
3. Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns well into the night. (vs 25)
 - a. perhaps as a _____ tool
 - b. perhaps as _____
 - c. perhaps as a means to maintain their _____ strength
4. A **miraculous earthquake** made escape simple and direct, yet no one left. (vs 25-28)
5. Paul and Silas intervened to _____ the head guard from killing himself. (vs 25-28)
 - a. he had not treated them in any way that _____ such a response
 - b. he had no expectation that anyone was still there
 - c. he would be killed anyway – so killing himself was a _____ mercy killing.
6. Because of Paul and Silas evening of worship, refrain from escape, and intervention when he was about to kill himself – the jailer _____ with a desire to be saved himself. (vs 30)
7. Paul and Silas shared the gospel with the Jailer and his family, who were _____ saved. (vs 31-34)
8. The magistrates **tried** to quietly release Paul and Silas, but they refused. (vs 35-39)
9. Paul and Silas met with the _____ at Lydia's house.
10. The _____ in Philippi was formed.
(Lydia's household and the Jailers household)

The Bigger Picture:

1. Paul and Silas were only in Philippi for a _____ or two, maybe three.
2. Lydia and her family _____, the Jailer and his family _____, the fortune teller and her associates did _____ believe.
3. God established a _____ in Philippi with two families and the gospel.

In other words:

1. Paul and Silas were **harassed** by a fortune teller, **beaten** with rods, and **jailed** – all so that God could save two families and start a church.

Questions:

1. What did _____ go through so that you could be saved today?
2. What are _____ willing to go through so that someone else might be saved tomorrow?
 - a. VBS, Youth Group, Sunday School, AWANA
 - b. Bad habits, coarse language, smells, uncomfortable places
 - c. Argumentative attitudes, bad logic, unrealistic philosophies
 - d. Poor decisions and sinful lifestyles

Conclusion:

1. Jesus did not sin with sinners, but he _____ with them.
2. Paul did not sin with sinners, but he _____ with them.
3. Both went where _____ took them and _____ in who God gave them.
4. We too must be righteous in _____, and evangelistic in our _____.