

DECISIONS MADE FOR GOD

“Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her. When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.” The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!” The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved -- you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God -- he and his whole family.” (Acts 16:16-34)

Paul and Silas they were in the city of Philippi to preach the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul and Silas had made up their mind to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and to serve Him whole heartedly. As we know that the Lord Jesus Christ came from heaven to bring mankind back to God. He came to save us and deliver us from sin and death. His blood was shed on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. He died to give eternal life to everyone who believe in Him and follow His steps in his life. The Lord Jesus after His resurrection from the death and before He ascended to heaven, He commissioned us with these words to do His work and to serve Him: “He said, **“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is**

baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:15-16) And the Lord had promised to those who believe in Him the following: **“And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” (Mark 16:17-18)**

Paul and Silas they were among those who had committed their lives to the Lord’s call and to His service. And as we read in the scripture the Lord Jesus had enabled them to cast out an evil spirit from a slave girl which predicts the future. Her owner earned a great deal of money by fortune telling. Such an instant that had happened brought some sort of trouble against Paul and Silas. They were beaten and they were put in prison. But the Lord was with them both. While they were in prison, praying and singing hymns to the Lord, God allowed an earthquake that shook the foundation of the prison. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose. The jailer was frightened and he was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul assured him that no one had escaped. At this occasion the Lord touched the heart of the jailer and he received God’s promise. **“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. You and your household.”** The jailer who put Paul and Silas in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks, he is the one who took them to his house. He was not afraid from the Roman authority. He protected God’s servants, Paul and Silas. He took them and washed their wounds. And at that very night he and his entire household heard the Word of the Lord, they took the right decision to accept Christ and His Word as Lord over their lives and they got baptized. The Jailer for that action and decision he might be losing his Job and even his life, but he chose to follow Christ and obeyed His Word. And he and his family did His will.

To serve God is to stand firm for the decision that you had made. Paul and Silas stood firm in the Lord and fully trusted their lives unto Him and to His care. Devil oppose them but failed. Devil might oppose you for the right decision that you made to follow the Lord Jesus and to serve Him, but you ought to stand firm like Paul and Silas and the Lord will not leave you, He will support you and uphold you as He did to Paul and Silas.

My Dear and Beloved: To follow Christ is not an outing Journey. It is a decision and a critical turning point in your life to give your heart and life to Him who gave His Life for you. He wants you to serve Him wholeheartedly till the end as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died for my sins on the cross, who was buried but rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself and my life to serve you and to stand firm to what I confessed. Lord help me and support me and uphold me with your love. Thank you Lord, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*