

## "Rejoicing in Salvation"

### Acts 16:25-34

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In **Psalm 144:15**, the Bible says, "***How happy are the people whose God is the Lord!***" As Christians, we have the ability to truly rejoice. But this morning I'd like for us to very briefly look at the place of rejoicing in God's plan of salvation. If you will, please look with me at **Acts 16:25-34**...

***"But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!' And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and after he brought them out, he said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household. And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household."***

This morning, as we think about the joy that we have as Christians, I simply want to point out that the jailer in the city of Philippi rejoiced only after he was immersed in water. Paul told the man he had to believe, then Paul told him what to believe, and as soon as the jailer heard the gospel message, he responded with repentance—that is, he washed the wounds that he had inflicted earlier in the evening—he had a change of heart that resulted in a concrete change of life. And then at that point, the Bible tells us that he was baptized "***immediately.***" And only after his baptism does the Bible ever tell us that this man rejoiced.

This morning, therefore, we are teaching the same gospel that Paul taught, and we would invite you to join us in following the Biblical pattern. We hear the good news that Jesus died for our sins, that he was buried, that he was raised up on the third day. We respond by believing the message. We change our hearts and minds. And

then we allow ourselves to be immersed in water for the forgiveness of our sins, at which point we rejoice in our salvation. If you have not yet followed this pattern, we would invite you to follow the example of the Philippian jailer and do it **"immediately."** If you have any questions at all, we would love to study with you, but if you know you need to appeal to God right away, you can let us know about your decision as we sing the next song. Let's stand and sing...

To comment on this lesson: [church@fourlakescoc.org](mailto:church@fourlakescoc.org)