

"THE SAME HOUR OF THE NIGHT"

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It is not always advisable to make "snap" decisions. Usually, we tend to want to think a matter over before we press ahead with it. This is fine, but then there are the times when we put something off indefinitely without tending to it when we should (procrastination). When the keeper of the prison in Philippi realized he was in the presence of men who had a message he needed to hear, he asked Paul and Silas, *"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"* (Acts 16:30).

Paul and Silas did not wait until a more "convenient" time to talk to this man. Though they had just been locked in the prison just before an earthquake had opened the doors and loosed their chains, the jailor's question was the most important thing at that moment. Paul and Silas said, *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house*" (vv. 31-32). The hour had to be late, for Paul and Silas were singing and praying earlier in the jail when it was midnight (v. 25). Yet here are these two men preaching to a household in the late hours of darkness. Some things just can't wait until the morning light.

"And he [jailor] took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized" (v. 33). When the jailor and his family learned that they needed to believe in Jesus and obey Him, there was no hesitation. Call it a snap decision, but it was not done without teaching and understanding. They understood the truth and knew what they needed to do. Many today know what they need to do, but never get around to doing it. If you believe the truth about Jesus and know what you need to do to be saved, make that decision to obey now. Future time is not guaranteed to anyone. Respond to the truth this very hour, before today's delay turns into eternal regret.