

## The Greatest Question

(Acts 16:29-30)

### Introduction:

1. This morning we are concentrating on the most important question that a person can ask -  
- "What must I do to be saved?"
2. To answer this question we must go to the right source -- Jesus.
  - a. According to Hebrews 5:9, Jesus *"is the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."*
  - b. His Word, the New Testament (Hebrews 9:15), answers our question.
3. We are examining 3 occasions in Acts when this question was asked.
  - a. (Acts 2:37) The Jews in Jerusalem asked Peter and the apostles, *"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"*
  - b. (Acts 9:6) Saul asked Jesus, *"Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"*
  - c. (Acts 16:30) The jailer in Philippi asked Paul and Silas, *"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"*
4. We are paying special attention to the answers that were given to these questions as well as the responses of the people involved.
5. Let us begin with . . .

### Discussion:

- I. THE JEWS IN JERUSALEM (Acts 2)
  - A. What prompted these people to ask, *"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"*
    1. These people were in Jerusalem to observe Pentecost.
    2. Jesus had been crucified a short time earlier during Passover.
    3. The apostles were given an opportunity to preach to this crowd of people.
    4. Peter's sermon is recorded in this chapter -- he pointed out that:
      - a. Jesus was *"a man approved of God"* (vs.22)
      - b. the people in his audience had murdered Jesus (vs.23)
      - c. Jesus had been resurrected from the grave (vs.24)
      - d. Jesus is both Lord and Christ (vs.36).
    5. Vs.37 shows us that the people who heard this message were troubled in that *"they were pricked in their heart."*
    6. This led them to ask, *"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"*
  - B. Peter answered their question in vs.38.
  - C. We learn from vs.41 that these people obeyed Peter's instructions.
  - D. Notice the change that took place in the lives of these people (vs.46-47).

## II. SAUL OF TARSUS (Acts 9)

- A. What prompted Saul to ask, "*Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?*"
  - 1. (vs.1-2) He was going to Damascus to arrest Christians.
  - 2. (vs.3-5) The Lord appeared to Saul and talked with him.
  - 3. (vs.6a) Saul was troubled -- he trembled, and he was astonished.
  - 4. This led him to ask, "*Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?*"
- B. (vs.6b) The Lord said, "*Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.*"
- C. We learn from Acts 22:16 what Saul was told to do.
- D. Saul obeyed these instructions (Acts 9:18b).
- E. Notice the change that took place in Saul's life (vs.19-22).

## III. THE JAILER IN PHILIPPI (Acts 16)

- A. What prompted him to ask, "*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*"
  - 1. Paul and Silas were in prison in Philippi (vs.23a).
  - 2. (vs.23b) The jailer was responsible for them.
  - 3. The jailer became very troubled -- he was ready to take his life (vs.26-27).
  - 4. (vs.28) Paul spoke to the jailer.
  - 5. (vs.29-30) The jailer asked, "*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*"
- B. (vs.31) Paul and Silas initially told him, "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*"
- C. We learn from vs.32 what Paul and Silas did so this man could believe on the Lord -- they taught him "*the word of the Lord*" (Romans 10:17).
- D. The jailer's response is revealed in vs.33 (compare with Acts 8:5, 12).
- E. Notice the change that took place in the jailer's life (vs.34).

### Conclusion:

- 1. The Jews in Jerusalem, Saul, and the jailer in Philippi asked what they needed to do to be saved.
- 2. They believed that Jesus is God's Son, they repented, and they were baptized to receive the remission of their sins.
- 3. They were miserable people before they obeyed the Gospel; however, they were all very happy afterward.
- 4. Question: Would you like to do what they did and receive the same blessing that they were given?