**Paul and Silas in Prison**

**Acts 16:16-40**

*Characters: Narrator, Paul, Silas, Slave girl, Slave owner, Magistrate, Prisoner, Officer*

**Narrator:** Paul and Silas were still in Philippi. They were going to the local synagogue, to preach the Gospel. On the way to the synagogue, a slave girl began following them. This particular slave girl was possessed by a demon, and her owners used the demon to sell her fortune telling services to others.

**Slave girl:** These men are servants of the Most High God! They proclaim the way of salvation!

**Narrator:** The slave girl continued following Paul and Silas, and Paul became worried that they would not be taken seriously if they had a demon possessed woman shouting out after them. He feared that they would look more like magicians than disciples. Paul turned to the slave girl, and said:

**Paul:** In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to come out of her!

**Narrator:** The demon left the girl immediately, and she had lost her fortune telling power as well. When the slave owner found out that the girl had lost her powers, and would no longer be able to make him money, he was upset, and dragged Paul and Silas in front of the magistrate.

**Slave owner:** These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city with religious customs that aren’t legal for Roman citizens! They must be arrested at once, and thrown in prison!

**Magistrate:** Very well—beat these men and throw them into prison! Jailer, keep these men safe.

**Narrator:** The jailor led the men to the prison, after they had been beaten. He shackled Paul and Silas to the wall, and locked their cell door. The jailer sat outside their cell, and fell asleep that evening.

**Paul and Silas:** Lord Jesus, let your will be done. Spread your word throughout Philippi. Guide us, and lead us to what we should do next.

**Narrator:** Suddenly, there was a great earthquake—the prison began to shake, the chains on everyone became unlocked, and the cell doors swung open. The jailer awoke, and saw the cell doors were open.

**Jailer:** Oh no! The prisoners must have escaped! I’ll be executed if the Emperor finds out that the prisoners escape. It would be better for me to kill myself, and make it look like a prisoner overpowered me, so my family will be kept safe *(draws his sword)*.

**Paul:** No! Wait, we are all still here—none of the prisoners have left their cells—do not harm yourself!

**Narrator:** The jailer heard Paul, and rushed into his cell, checking to see if Paul and Silas were alright. He brought them outside the prison, and fell to his knees.
Jailer: What must I do to be saved?

Silas: You must believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.

Narrator: Paul baptized the jailer and his family at his home. The jailer cared for Paul and Silas’ wounds, and kept them at his house over night. The next morning, the magistrates sent an officer to the jailer’s house, ordering that Paul and Silas be released.

Officer: Release Paul and Silas—the magistrate has found that they have done nothing wrong. You can now leave—go in peace.

Paul: No, we are Roman citizens. It was illegal for us to be thrown in prison without trial. We wish to speak to the magistrate in person, and have him apologize to us.

Narrator: The magistrate came at once after hearing Paul’s demand, out of fear of what would happen to him, because he broke the Roman law.

Magistrate: I apologize for your treatment. I will give you anything you want, provided you do not let the authorities know what happened here. But, the crowd was riled up against you yesterday—it is no longer safe for you to remain in Philippi. You must leave at once.

Narrator: Paul and Silas then left Philippi, going to a new city to share God’s word.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.”