

“Jesus Goes To Jail”

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By Rebecca Enney

Do you suppose that Jesus would ever go to jail? Well, not AS a prisoner, but he most assuredly will go WITH a prisoner. I know of at least three times He was there.

Jesus went to jail in today’s lesson from Acts. Paul and Silas were falsely accused and thrown into jail. While they were there, in the innermost cell and their feet were fastened so they could not get away, they sang songs of Jesus love and power. When things are that bad and you can still sing of Jesus’ love, then that means Jesus is there with you, even if you cannot see him.

And then . . . there was a big earthquake that shook the jail so hard that the locked doors opened and the stocks that fastened their feet fell off! And that was not even the miracle part! The miracle part is what comes next! The prisoners did not run out of the jail. But the jailer did not know this. He thought Paul and Silas would run away, so without even checking on them, he got ready to kill himself, because he knew his boss would anyway!

“Stop!” shouted Paul. The jailer called for lights and rushed in and found them. Now, here is the miracle part. The jailer was so amazed by Paul and Silas that he invited them to his home where he fed them and helped them clean up. The jailer then learned about Jesus and everyone in the jailer’s household was baptized! That’s the miracle! And it is a true story.

Frank Hefelfinger, that is Barabas’s father, lives in CA and works as a janitor at Disney Internet Group on Lankershim Blvd in North Hollywood. But this weekend he is here in Camp Hill! He made a special trip east because he was invited to speak at a Prison Ministry Breakfast here at Trinity yesterday where the guests were all men and women who have recently been released from prison.



“I did some pretty bad things and found myself in jail,” Frank told them all. “And guess who else found me there? Jesus! I never expected to meet Jesus in jail.” That story is just pretend, because Frank is not a real person. But the breakfast here yesterday was for real.

And so is David, . . . a real person. He was at the breakfast too and he is a member here at Trinity. He has also been in jail. David had run away from Georgia to escape the law. He soon was homeless in Harrisburg, PA. David told us that Jesus came back into his life when he was at Bethesda Mission. That’s when David knew that he had to go back to Georgia and face time in jail. “I wasn’t afraid because I knew Jesus was with me,” said David. One particular day some of the people here at Trinity said prayers for David in jail in Georgia and at that very hour, he was released from prison early! And THAT is a true story!

The psalm we read together this morning says: "God protects the lives of his godly people and rescues them from the power of the wicked!" That sure is true!

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