

Acts 16:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

Analysis

The Philippian jailer's nighttime conversion and baptism - 'the same hour of the night' - shows urgency in responding to the gospel. His transformation from suicidal despair to joy-filled faith demonstrates the gospel's power to utterly change a person instantly. Washing Paul's wounds before being baptized himself shows how receiving grace produces immediate compassion toward others.

Historical Context

Roman jailers faced execution if prisoners escaped, explaining his suicide attempt when he thought they had fled. Paul's miracle - remaining despite the earthquake opening doors - convinced him of divine power.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the gospel's power to transform in an instant challenge modern emphasis on gradual spiritual development?

2. What does the jailer's immediate care for Paul's wounds teach about faith producing compassion?

Interlinear Text

καὶ παραλαβὼν αὐτοῦ ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ὥρᾳ τῆς νυκτὸς
And **he took** **he** G1722 **the same** G3588 **hour** G3588 **of the night**
G2532 G3880 G846 G1565 G5610 G3571

ἔλουσεν ἀπὸ τῶν πληγῶν καὶ ἐβαπτίσθη αὐτοῦ καὶ
and washed **their stripes** G3588 G4127 **And** **was baptized** **he** **And**
G3068 G575 G2532 G907 G846 G2532

οἱ αὐτοῦ πάντες παραχρῆμα
G3588 **he** **all** **straightway**
G846 G3956 G3916

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 1:16 (Baptism): And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.

Acts 16:15 (Baptism): And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

Acts 16:25 (Parallel theme): And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.