

The Search for Safety (Acts 16:22–34)
Kenny Rager, Church Evangelism Strategist, KBC

Do you have children? If so, you know the need for safety! Immediately upon birth they are examined, wrapped up, and put under a heat lamp! We child proof our homes and take every precaution.

But have you noticed that the more kids you have the less you are concerned with safety?

- My first child— Felt like we had to wrap her in bubble wrap before we took her anywhere.
- My fourth child— “Hey son, don’t put your knife in the light socket!”

The reality is that the world is not safe.

- Everyday there are disasters caused by nature (floods, earthquakes, fires, pandemics).
- Everyday there are disasters caused by health failures.
- Everyday there are disasters caused by crime.

There are three areas that require safety

- ***The outside***— Our physical environments (cars, homes, neighborhoods)
- ***The inside***— We want to feel secure mentally and emotionally and mentally secure.
- ***The above***— We want to feel secure and right with God (even if the outside and the inside fail...what if we are not safe with God?)

Paul and Silas were arrested in Philippi. Paul had cast a demon out of a slave girl. The demon allowed the girl to predict fortunes (which brought her masters lots of money)! When the demon was gone, so was the profit! They brought Paul and Silas before the magistrates and claimed they were upsetting the city. The officials had them flogged and thrown into jail! While in jail they began to praise God in the midnight hour. The other prisoners were listening.

God sent an earthquake. All the chains were loosened! The jailer was in danger! Roman law would hold the jailer responsible for escapes! The jailer had just experienced an earthquake! ***Physical danger:*** The jailer was afraid and wanted to kill himself! ***Emotional danger:*** Paul stops him (shows him the prisoners are still there). Now, he wants to be safe from ***spiritual danger!***

The jailor asks, “What must I do to be saved?” We are asking the same question, “What must I do to be safe? Or saved?”

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.

How can I find safety in a dangerous world?

- 1) **My search for safety begins with belief.**
 - a. Observation - “Believe ...” (v. 31)
 - b. Interpretation
 - i. The man asks Paul and Silas how to be saved.
 - ii. Paul answers.
 - iii. If we are to be safe in a dangerous world, we must believe.
 - c. Illustration

- i. Humans struggle with placing confidence and trust in something bigger than themselves, especially for their safety. They want to protect themselves.
 - d. Application
 - i. Are you living your life with belief? You will never find security unless you have faith.
- 2) **My search for safety will fail unless it leads me to the Lord.**
 - a. Observation - "Believe in the Lord Jesus ..."
 - b. Interpretation
 - i. Paul defines what the jailer is to believe in.
 - ii. So, what was he supposed to believe about Jesus?
 - iii. If we are to be safe, we must place our trust in Christ.
 - c. Illustration
 - i. Why does it have to be Jesus? Why can't I believe in some other higher power?
 - ii. Jesus Christ has proven Himself to me on various occasions. I place my faith in Him because He lives.
 - d. Application
 - i. Have you placed your faith and confidence in Jesus? You will have no safety in your life unless you do so.
- 3) **My search for safety will be satisfied with salvation.**
 - a. Observation - "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."
 - b. Interpretation
 - i. Paul tells the man what will happen if he trusts in Christ.
 - ii. This promise would also be for his family, who would also believe.
 - iii. Salvation provides the safety we need.
 - c. Illustration
 - i. Throughout all history people have suffered for their belief, such as Horatio Spafford (see Wikipedia article).
 - ii. His children and wife were killed at sea. They were not exempt from physical harm. He was not exempt from emotional harm.
 - iii. But he knew that God was with him no matter what...so he penned that famous hymn, "It is Well with My Soul."
 - d. Application
 - i. We will have many problems, but if we have Christ in our lives, we are safe!

Invitation

This man thought he had it all ... until it all came crashing down.

Are you like this man? If your world came crashing down, would you be looking for a sword? Or are you like Paul and Silas? Would you be heard singing in the midnight hour?

This world is not safe ... and it will never be safe. But you do not have to live in fear. You can experience the security of Jesus Christ, but you must "believe in the Lord Jesus Christ."

Would you open your heart today?

Admit you are sinner.

Believe that Jesus died and rose again.

Confess Him as your Savior.