

Philippian Jailer Discussion

Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.

Roman prisons were not comfortable places and to be chained, meant that the prisoners could not easily fight off the rats and other vermin. What do you suppose the typical prisoners might be doing?

Paul and Silas were jailed because they had cast a spirit of divination out of a young woman, angering her employers who brought charges. Did Paul and Silas have reason to complain?

Why were Paul and Silas singing?

How could they have such a positive attitude?

Was the earthquake part of God's plan?

Is the opening of jail doors and falling off of chains the usual result of an earthquake?

What about Paul's actions captured the jailer's attention?

How did Paul use a play on words to answer the jailers real need?

If you had asked Paul why he was jailed, what would he have probably said?

Why did Paul insist that he not be quietly released after flogging without a trial?

What effect would this have on the magistrates?

Was it loving to put people into an embarrassing position?

Might it have led them to investigate Paul and his message further?

Would it make them less likely to pursue prosecution of the case against Paul or the jailer?

Can you imagine the jailer telling his story to the church in Lydia's house?

Is it likely that the jailer led some of his prisoners to saving faith in Jesus?

Was there danger of action against him by his superiors if he did?

If there were, would it be likely to change his practices?