

Word Notes Sunday 16/03/14 Tony Hodge: Salvation

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: Acts 16:16-34

We've embarked on a time in which we will be praying for salvation – that is to see people saved, to give their lives to Jesus and hence be rescued not just from problems in this world but to become friends of God through Jesus for all time and beyond. When the jailer asked how his life could be saved Paul & Silas told him not just how he could be safe in that moment but how his whole life could be turned around and salvation come in the widest possible sense – eternal salvation and friendship with God through Jesus. But where to start? Do we struggle with the whole idea that people will be asking: "What must I do?" What was different about Paul & Silas – they moved in the Spirit:

1. In setting the slave girl free of a troublesome spirit they had attracted attention.
2. Even in difficult circumstances Paul & Silas kept rejoicing, praying and praising God.
3. God did even more.
4. People were saved.

So it seems that when God's presence was evident, though signs and wonders associated with his people, things start to happen – which means if we're serious about seeing salvation then we should act: Go among people and get "outside of ourselves", rely on God to meet people's needs – "light the blue touch paper". And like a firework we expect to see things happening. When the Apostles moved in the power of God people either:

- a) Ridiculed them,
- b) Got angry (tried to beat them up, run them out of town or arrest them) or
- c) Asked what they should do.

Our response to the first two is to carry on, to the last it's to be ready to show them how – and to be inventive in how we answer their request, it's possible the jailer was only asking how he might be saved from the wrath of his bosses.

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

Opportunities to tell people about salvation can often come from meeting their needs and even more so when we move in the Spirit. Read Acts 16:13-15 and 16-18, Acts 2:36-38 and Acts 3:1-7

In each case answer the following:

- What were the disciples or apostles doing at the time?
- What led up to them being there – something organised or a Holy Spirit moment?
- How was the Holy Spirit involved? (you may need to look wider in the text.)

How were you saved? Encourage one or two with different experiences to share the circumstances of them asking "what must I do" or something like that. Who was involved, was it at a "meeting" or something more personal?

Discuss the witness question below.

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

In what situations are you able to step out with the Good News and/or meet people's needs through physical or Spirit ministry? Pray for specific situations and opportunities and report back next week.