

## QUESTIONS

**WDXE – November 7, 2010**

Have you considered the importance of the questions you ask? A question is the key to the answer you are looking for. The question helps to clarify what you are looking for. It is the front door of any solution. A question is the engine of innovation. Anything that is new first began with a question.

Hello I'm Larry Murdock. Good morning and welcome to this program.

If you have no questions, then you are finished learning! Oh, you might accidentally learn something. Anything you just happen to learn is just that, happenchance! Sometimes we do get lucky; or perhaps it might be better to say that we are sometimes blessed with learning for which we had no question!

For instance, life's circumstances might reveal to you a problem that you didn't know you had. This happened to the Philippian Jailor in Acts 16. Remember when Paul and Silas were in a prison in Philippi? At midnight they were having a singing! An earthquake shook the prison down to its foundations. It freed Paul and Silas from their stocks and knocked open every door in the place. When he awoke, the Jailor instantly knew that all the doors were open. He thought that every prisoner must have escaped by now. He drew his sword in order to fall on it. You see, he was responsible for those prisoners with his own life. He determined that the most honorable thing he could do because of this escape was to fall on his own sword. But then a voice yelled out of the darkness – "do thyself no harm, we are all here." The Jailer found a light and came trembling to Paul and Silas' cell. He asked a question: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" I think the man was probably asking about his physical life, but Paul answered him in not only in regards to his physical life, but also his eternal life. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house." The solution for saving his physical life and his eternal life was the Lord Jesus Christ. Have you ever thought of Jesus as being the savior of your physical life? To those who would carry His gospel to the world, Jesus did say "I will be with you always even unto the end of world." He did say to repentant Christians, "Behold, I stand at the

door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” (Rev 3:20, KJV.) Jesus gave a promise that he would be with those who trust Him and will repent.

Trust Jesus. Take Jesus at His word. Serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Not only could this faith in Jesus mean the salvation of the Jailor, but also his family could enjoy salvation if they believed. We don't know what happened to the other prisoners, but the Jailor took Paul and Silas out of the prison and took them home with him, whatever distance that was, his family may have been close by. We read that Paul and Silas then “spoke unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.” (Acts 16:32.) People cannot believe on Jesus as the Lord unless they can read or hear the “word of the Lord.” It is true that ungodly husbands can see the chaste behavior of their Christian wives and be won to Christ without the word, says Peter in 1 Peter 3:1. But the quickest way to faith in Jesus is through hearing or reading the word of the Lord. After he had heard the gospel, the Jailor took the prisoners “the same hour of the night and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.” (Acts 16:33-34.) Notice that it was after they were baptized that they were rejoicing having believed in God. Friends, this phrase “Believing in God,” in this instance, is the same thing as believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. The expression “believing in God” includes what they did to obey the command of God found in the word of the Lord. They repented and were baptized...how did they learn about baptism? When people hear the word of the Lord, they are supposed to hear about baptism! When Christ is taught as the Lord...baptism is taught.

The jailor and his family changed that night. They, together, began that night a new life in Jesus Christ. Wouldn't it be wonderful if your family could change today? Old things were passed away. All things were become new for the Jailor's family. They were Christians. It all began with a realized need and a question: “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” Before that earthquake hit, the Jailor didn't know that he and his family had a need! They had no question. Friends, God

works through circumstances in your life, trying to get you to realize your need so that you will begin to ask questions. Only then will you be willing to look for answers.

Consider the case of the Ethiopian Eunuch. We read about this man in Acts 8. This Ethiopian man was a queen's treasurer. He had come on a long pilgrimage to worship in Jerusalem. He was returning to his homeland and his chariot was traveling the road that led out of Jerusalem heading southeast toward Gaza and Egypt. He was reading his Bible. He had a copy of the book of Isaiah, which he was reading. It was probably a scroll. It would have cost him a lot of money. In God's providence God arranged for the preacher Philip to intersect the Gaza road at just the right place in order to cross paths with the Ethiopian treasurer. Philip was close enough to hear the man reading from Isaiah 53. Philip asked, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" The Eunuch answered with a question, "How can I except some man should guide me?" The Eunuch invited Philip to sit with him in the chariot, as the chariot continued moving along. "The place of the scripture which he read was this, 'He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? For his life is taken from the earth.'" "Then the Eunuch asked another question. "Of whom speaketh the prophet this? Of himself, or of some other man?" "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch [had another question], 'See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?'" What prompted this question about baptism? Obviously, Philip had given the teaching of Christ in the Lord's great commission. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mark 16:15, 16.) "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" This is a great question. Evidently, the eunuch was convicted of his own sins. He realized he was lost. And when the chariot passed a place where was a certain water, his question naturally arose, "see, here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized?" There was one thing Philip needed to know. Philip answered the eunuch's question this way, "If you believe with all thine heart,

thou mayest. And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (Acts 16:37.) The eunuch then commanded the chariot to stop. "They went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing." (Acts 8:38-39.) Here is the same result that we saw with the Jailor and his family. They all rejoiced after they had obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Some of the greatest questions ever asked are religious. Neighbor, have any religious questions come in your mind lately? Many people do not like to talk about religion; much less do they like asking questions about it. But the most profitable Bible study usually begins with some problem that is bothering us at the moment. Once Jesus asked his disciples this question, "Who do people say that I the son of man am?" The apostles replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." Then Jesus asked his apostles, "Who do you say I am?" Peter spoke up and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matt 16:13-16.)

Friends, when our questions about salvation are answered and we have responded in obedience, rejoicing will be the result. Are you asking salvation questions? Are you searching for some answers for your life? Have you been through some circumstances lately that have shaken the foundations of your life? Or like the eunuch are you puzzled about some Bible teaching? Get your Bible down and search for the answers to your questions. Like the Eunuch, do you need some help in searching your Bible? Visit a church of Christ near you. A Christian there can assist you in obeying the Gospel of Christ.