

## **Acts 16: 16-40: Authority Over Demons And Worship In Prison.**

### **I. (16-18) A demon-possessed slave girl.**

The demon-possessed slave girl "advertises" for Paul, giving a demonic "publicity" to their spiritual qualification and ministry **for many days**. Didn't they appreciate the free "advertising"? No, because it was from an evil source and they didn't need it.

In this, Paul is like Jesus, who often told demons to be silent, even when they were telling the truth about Him in **Matthew 8:29** -...*"What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"*

Jesus cast out demons with His own authority. Paul casts out the demons only in the authority of Jesus Christ. God gives us authority over demons.

**Mark 16:17** - *"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons..."*

### **II. (19-40) Paul, Silas and their Philippian jailer.**

Paul and Silas are imprisoned because they were responsible for the closure of the sorcery business. They are also hated, being Jews in Roman dominated territory. They experienced all forms of injustice, vaguely accused, unfairly tried, punished and securely imprisoned. This was all illegal according to Roman law as we will see.

Through all injustice, Paul and Silas go against the odds; while it was easier to cry in self-pity and anger, they worship in prayer and song.

"Instead of cursing men, they blessed God." (Stott).

When we are unjustly and unfairly treated, we can choose to respond spiritually or carnally/in the flesh; look at men or look to God, to quarrel about it or to honor God through it.

**Psalms 34:15** - *The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.*

**Philippians 4:6** - *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

**Ephesians 5:18** - *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,*

**Colossians 3:16** - *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

**Psalms 95:6** - *Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.*

God supernaturally causes an earthquake, breaks the prison chains, the jailer attempts suicide thinking the prisoners had escaped...gets saved with his family, offers to nurse their wounds and a meal.

Because Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they *had* rights for fair trial, which were previously violated by the Philippian magistrates. The magistrates act like any politicians act by instinct. They try to make their problem go away quietly by sweeping them under the rug.

They agree to go, but only after **they had seen the brethren and encouraged them**. Paul and Silas would not be hurried out of town until they had brought their work there to a conclusion.

In Philippi, Paul and Silas left behind two notable converts: Lydia and the prison guard. Each of these two had their lives touched by Jesus in very different ways.

**Romans 8:28** - *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*