

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series

Acts of the Apostles

"Paul's Works in Philippi"

Acts 16:11-24 NKJV

[11] Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day came to Neapolis, [12] and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days. [13] And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. [14] Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. [15] And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us. [16] Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. [17] This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." [18] And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. [19] But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. [20] And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; [21] and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." [22] Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. [23] And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. [24] Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.



Discussion Questions:

1. How are vv.14-15 an example of John 6:44? Knowing of these verses and considering evangelism, what should you pray for?
2. In reading about Lydia in these verses,
 - How did she show immediate obedience?
 - What fruit of the spirit was apparent after her conversion?
 - Give other examples from the Book of Acts of how a person is immediately changed after they have been truly converted?
3. In vv.16, a slave girl was possessed with a spirit of divination which was used for profit. Today, some still claim that they can do the same (and do it for a profit as well).
 - Are all "fortune tellers" today demon possessed like the girl in vv.16?
 - Is there any harm in seeking a "fortune teller"? Why or why not?
4. Read Matt 8:28-34 and Mark 3:11-12.
 - How were the demons acting the same in these verses and in vv. 17-18?
 - How did Paul respond like Jesus?
 - Why would Jesus and Paul want them to be silenced?
5. Although being freed from evil spirits is a good thing, this angered her masters. What does this say about the masters? What did they value most?
6. Many celebrate Halloween without thinking twice about its origin. Its origin is affiliated with spirits. Knowing what the bible says about spirits, what should a Christian's stance be regarding Halloween? Is there any harm in participating in these activities? Why or why not?