

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series

Acts of the Apostles

"God's Work In Thessalonica"

Acts 16:35-17:1-9

Roman Citizenship Revealed

Acts 16:35-40

[35] And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "Let those men go." [36] So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace." [37] But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out." [38] And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. [39] Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city. [40] So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

Acts 17:1-9

[1] Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. [2] Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, [3] explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." [4] And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas. [5] But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. [6] But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. [7] Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king-Jesus." [8] And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. [9] So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

Discussion Questions:

1. Paul and Silas obviously knew that they had rights as Roman citizens.
 - What may be reasons why they didn't disclose this to the magistrates and prevent being beaten and jailed?
 - Think of a situation where you may have *rights* but you did not exercise that *right* because of a conviction to be obedient to God.
2. Paul and Silas went to the house of Lydia. How could Paul and Silas be an encouragement to them?
3. Lydia and the prison guard were both noteworthy converts in Philippi. Compare how their life and conversion were similar and different from each other.
4. In vv. 17:2, Paul had a custom. Have you created a *custom* to share the gospel with others? Share or brainstorm ways you can start doing this.
5. What was Paul's method of share the gospel with the Jews in the synagogue?
6. Does your method of sharing the gospel change when you are evangelizing?
7. Read Philippians 4:15-16. How can we put this into practice?
8. How many were converted in Thessalonica?
9. Jason was guilty by association with Paul, Silas and Jesus. Reflect on your life, would you be guilty of being associated with disciples of Christ and Jesus? Explain.
10. What does it mean to "turned the world upside down"? If we *right-side up* with Jesus. How is the world upside down? Also, how has your world been turn *upside-down* with your conversion?