

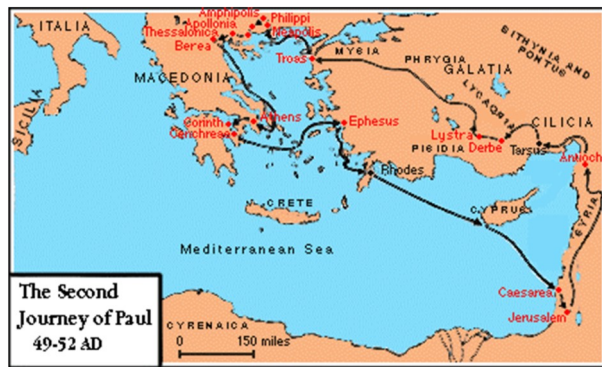
ACTS

of the Holy Spirit

Session #25 – 16:16 - 40

We are in the midst of Paul's Second Missionary Journey

Paul and Silas and Timothy and Luke are traveling together from Derbe to Lystra to Troas and across to Philippi.



I. The Demon Possessed Girl (16:16 - 18)

Verse 16

Once
when we were going
to the place of prayer,

(Just like with Lydia)

we were met by a female slave (paidiske = maid)

who had a spirit [of divination] (**python** = In Greek mythology the Pythian serpent or dragon that dwelt in the region of Pytho at the foot of Parnassus – guarded the oracle at Delphi) – I Sam. 28:7 – ABADDON/APPOLLYON – Rev. 9:11

[by which she predicted the future.]

She earned a great deal of money

for her owners

by fortune-telling. (manteuomai = mantis = seer/oracle)

Most likely demon possessed – used by her owners for profit.



Verse 17

She followed Paul
and the rest of us,

shouting, (krazo = (crazy) = cry out like a raven)

*“These men are servants (doulos = bond servants)
of the Most High God,
who are telling you
the way to be saved.”*

This girl gave a “demonic testimony” to the work of Paul and Silas. Or was she?

Verse 18

She kept this up
for many days.

Finally

Paul became so annoyed (diapoineomai = much pain)
that he turned around
and said to the spirit, (speaking to the source)

“In the name of Jesus Christ

I command you to come out of her!” (exerchomai = depart now)

At that moment the spirit left her.

The power of the name of Jesus Christ! – Eph. 1:19 – 22; Col. 2:10, 15. 1) Demons can only do what HE permits! 2) Demons must obey His command! and 3) Demons disperse at his word!

Jesus gives us delegated power – Mark 16:17; Acts. 5:16,8:7

II. The Imprisonment (16:19 - 24)

Verse 19

When her owners (kyrios = master) realized
that their hope

of making money

was gone,

they seized Paul

and Silas

and dragged them

into the marketplace

to face the authorities.

Verse 20

They brought them
before the magistrates
and said,

*“These men are Jews, (looked different/”outsiders”)
and are throwing our city
into an uproar (extrasso = confusion)*

Verse 21

*by advocating customs (ethos = way of life)
unlawful for us Romans
to accept or practice.”*

In Roman culture – there are two worlds – Roman and other!
Very much like the Jewish world! Special laws and privileges are
given to Roman citizens.

The decree of Claudius (25 AD) – banned Jews from Rome!

Verse 22

The crowd joined in the attack
against Paul and Silas,
and the magistrates ordered them
to be stripped
and beaten
with rods

In Jewish law there was a limit on the number of blows you
could inflict at one time – Not so with Roman Law – there is no
limit!

Now we have a Gentile riot! This is the first of many Gentile
riots against the gospel. The motivation behind the Gentile
opposition is money whereas the Jewish opposition was about
power and position.

The Macedon call of God began with painful persecution!

Verse 23

After they had been severely flogged,
they were thrown into prison,
and the jailer was commanded
to guard them carefully.

Verse 24

When he received these orders,
he put them in 1) the inner cell
and fastened their 2) feet in the stocks.

Two levels of security!

III. The Conversion of the Jailer (16:25 - 34)

Verse 25

About midnight
Paul and Silas were 1) praying
and 2) singing hymns to God,
and the other prisoners were listening
to them.

A picture of a soul sold out to God!
Being a witness to others even in the struggle.

Verse 26

Suddenly
there was such a violent earthquake
that the foundations of the prison
were shaken.

At once
all the prison doors flew open,
and everyone’s chains came loose.

This was not a normal earthquake. This one was able to open
doors and open locks! Once again, prisons cannot hold a person
who God wants to free!

Verse 27

The jailer woke up,
and when he saw the prison doors open,
he drew his sword
and was about to kill himself
because he thought
the prisoners had escaped.

Verse 28

But Paul shouted,
“Don’t harm yourself!
We are all here!” (WHAT ARE YOU DOING?)

Verse 29

The jailer called for lights,
rushed in
and fell trembling
before Paul and Silas.

2 There was another purpose behind this suffering than just Paul
and Silas’ freedom!

Verse 30

He then brought them out
and asked,

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

Verse 31

They replied,

*“Believe in the Lord Jesus,
and you will be saved—
you and your household.”*

By grace alone and by faith alone!

His household was NOT saved by him being saved! They all will
have the opportunity to be saved!

Verse 32

Then
they spoke the word
of the Lord
to him
and to all the others
in his house.

The power of the Word of God!

The importance of the speaker! Rom. 10:13-15

Verse 33

At that hour of the night
the jailer took them
and washed their wounds;
then immediately
he and all his household
were baptized.

As we saw with Lydia, the first sign of true conversion is the
desire to serve others. The second sign of true conversion is the
desire to fully profess your faith in public baptism.

Verse 34

The jailer brought them
into his house
and set a meal before them;
he was filled with joy
because he had come
to believe in God—
he and his whole household.

There was a new attitude of JOY and hospitality within the
entire household!

Interesting that there is NO manifestation of the Holy Spirit in
this case. Doesn't mean the Spirit is not a part but is not always
obvious. Love and joy should be obvious!

IV. The Revelation (16:35 - 40)

Verse 35

When it was daylight,
the magistrates sent their officers
to the jailer
with the order:
“Release those men.”

Note: Paul and Silas had to go back to jail.

Verse 36

The jailer told Paul,
*“The magistrates have ordered
that you and Silas be released.
Now you can leave.
Go in peace.”*

Verse 37

But

Paul said to the officers:
*“They beat us publicly (many eye witnesses)
without a trial,
even though we are Roman citizens,
and threw us into prison.
And now do they want to get rid of us quietly?
No!
Let them come themselves
and escort us out.”*

By the Lex Porcia (247 BC) Roman citizens were exempt from all
degrading punishments. Paul did have the right to be treated
according to the Roman law even as he suffered for the sake of
3 Christ. Christians are not be “door mats” for the world!

Verse 38

The officers reported this
to the magistrates,
and when they heard
that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens,
they were alarmed. (phobeo = fearful of)

Verse 39

They came to appease them
and escorted them from the prison,
requesting (erotao = beg) them
to leave the city.

Verse 40

After Paul and Silas came out
of the prison,
they went to Lydia's house,
where they met
with the brothers and sisters
and encouraged them.

Then they left.

Nobody rushes Paul! He leaves when he is ready!