



Small Group Study Questions

Sermon on June 4th, 2023

Acts 16:14-24 (NASB)

14 A woman named Lydia was listening; she was a seller of purple fabrics from the city of Thyatira, and a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. 15 Now when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

16 It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave woman who had a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing great profit to her masters by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and us and cried out repeatedly, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you a way of salvation." 18 Now she continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and he turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.

19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was suddenly gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities, 20 and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, "These men, Jews as they are, are causing our city trouble, 21 and they are proclaiming customs that are not lawful for us to accept or to practice, since we are Romans."

22 The crowd joined in an attack against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods. 23 When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; 24 and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Acts 16:35-40 (NASB)

35 Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their officers, saying, "Release those men." 36 And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The chief magistrates have sent word that you be released. So come out now and go in peace." 37 But Paul said to them, "After beating us in public without due process—men who are Romans—they threw us into prison; and now they are releasing us secretly? No indeed! On the contrary, let them come in person and lead us out." 38 The officers reported these words to the chief magistrates. And they became fearful when they heard that they were Romans, 39 and they came and pleaded with them, and when they had led them out, they repeatedly asked them to leave the city. 40 They left the prison and entered the house of Lydia, and when they saw the brothers and sisters, they encouraged them and departed.

DIGGING DEEPER

What makes you annoyed?

What are some God-given rights that we have? And why are they important for us to have?

Read Acts 16:14-15

Lydia accepted the message of Jesus and immediately supported the ministry. When someone comes to faith in Jesus, what kind of serving roles are they qualified for? Could they teach by telling others what they have just believed? Why or why not?

Because you are saved, how do you serve? (Hint: there are opportunities to serve at Grace - talk to Pastor Brent to find out more.)

Read Acts 16:16-18

Do you think the girl was saying proclaiming it as truth or in a mocking way? Why?

Read Acts 16:19-24

Did Paul and Silas deserve this treatment and were they rightfully accused?

DIGGING DEEPER

If you were their lawyer, what kinds of rights were violated here?

Read Acts 16:35-40

Why did the magistrates just try and let Paul and Silas go?

Are you most like or not like Paul - would you have just left, or would you have shared that you were a Roman citizen?

On a scale of 1-10 - how would you rate your boldness for Christ? How can this group together grow in this area?

TAKING IT HOME

PRAYER REQUEST

