



The Book of Acts:

Holy Spirit Adventures

Passage: Acts 16

The Book of Acts – A call to see the Spirit move again and again in every generation

Introduction

Enjoy the Table Talk video with Pastor Jon [here](#).

We've seen multiple examples of spiritual opposition in the Acts narratives. In our [Sanctus Lent Devotion Series](#) on Matthew 8, Tom Wright asks, "Is this what it looks like when God's kingdom begins to arrive on earth as in heaven? Does it mean that some sort of cosmic battle is now in progress, with the storm on the one hand and the evil spirits on the other trying as it were to attack Jesus, to stop him bringing heaven's rule to bear on this dangerous and distracted world of ours? What's that going to mean for us?" What have your reactions been to the conflicts we've heard described in Acts? Are you growing in confidence or not so much?

Unpacking the Sermon

1. Acts 16:14 "One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, ... The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message."

Pastor Jon pointed out that this was God's work, "Never ever forget this! Lydia was not more open, she was not more intellectual. See it always takes God to open our hearts to His gospel." The ministry in Philippi had been set up by God's clear guidance described in Acts 16:7-10. How do you react to God's sovereign work in and through us? Is it encouraging or challenging, or both?

2. Acts Acts 16:16 "we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future."

Pastor Jon described the destructive effect of this girl's shouts. This was a real spiritual attack. By Jesus' power, she was stopped and set free. Yet a further attack erupted in verses 19-24. Jesus said we would face persecution in John 16:33 How do you process this when thinking about your own life and circumstances?

3. Acts 16:25 "Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God,"

Paul and Silas worshipped in prison. Worship is a weapon in our troubles. Discuss why this is true. What is your experience using worship in tough times?

4. Acts 16:29-30 The jailer rushed in asking, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself!". That act of mercy stirred the jailer to find God. Discuss how Paul showed grace despite the mistreatment he'd received. Such a response is a spiritual fruit in us. Read Galatians 5:22-26. What does 'keeping in step with the Spirit(v. 25) look like practically for you?

APPLICATION

1.) How we lose might be more important than how we win

The gospel mattered more to Paul than his safety. Discuss Philippians 1:27-29. Do you even consider that Jesus wants to save those that hurt us? How can you as a group encourage each other to find strength in God to live like that?

2.) Worship still is a weapon.

Paul & Silas modeled worship in the midst of troubles! We must worship regardless of our circumstances. Worship opens the door for God to work. What are practical steps to cultivate a worshipful relationship with God in daily life?

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you Jesus for the example of Paul and Silas in Philippi. Please give us a love for enemies that makes no sense. Please help worship to grow in our daily lives. May bitterness be undone and healing happen in beautiful ways. Please move this passage from history and help it become reality among us. We pray this In the name of God the Father who called us, in the name of Jesus who sets people free, and in the name of the Holy Spirit who is light in our darkness. Amen

Have questions about the sermon? Email us: groups@sanctuschurch.com