

July 10th – Serving God is No Bed of Roses

*“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.”*

(Acts 16:19)

I bet you're familiar with the story of Paul and Silas. Both of them were men who loved the Lord and joined forces to spread the Gospel and plant churches. One of their missionary journeys brought them to the city of Philippi. After ministering in the city for many days, they became annoyed by a young lady who kept following them and proclaiming, “These men are servants of the Most High God” (Acts 16:17). Her words were true, but they were coming from a demon spirit inhabiting her.

The Scripture says that Paul became increasingly annoyed with her loud proclamations and turned and rebuked the demon spirit. The Bible says the young girl was freed from her demon spirit that very same hour. You would think everyone would be elated by the girl's exorcism, but sadly that was not the case. The Bible tells us that her masters were not pleased when they saw that their possibility of profit was gone. They had been exploiting the young lady for their own gain.

Paul and Silas ended up being beaten with rods and they were locked away with the dregs of society in an inner prison cell. Why would God allow Paul and Silas to be punished so severely when they were serving Him? In case we didn't get the memo, serving God is no bed of roses. We are not immune from life's trials just because we're born again – in fact, it's our salvation that puts us right in Satan's crosshairs. And yet, we should not lose heart as we serve the Lord. Jesus promised us many trials, but He also promised to see us through each one. Keep pressing forward with Christ!