

# Paul In Philippi

Acts 16:11-40



# Acts 16:11-15

Act 16:11 So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony; and we were staying in this city for some days. 13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled. 14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. 15 And 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.■

# Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey

- Begun from a desire to strengthen the church
- A Dispute between him and Barnabas over Mark
- Parting of company followed by wandering
- 500 miles of “no” from God in Asia!
- A vision granting direction at last!
- Off to Philippi



# Lydia's Conversion

- Roman Colony - devotion to Roman ways
- No Synagogue only a place of Prayer by the River
- Break with custom and tradition! So WHAT?!
- Lydia of Thyatira--which is in ASIA!
- God has plans that don't involve you!
- Your job is to be obedient to Him



# Acts 16:16-24

16 It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation." 18 She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and 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.

# Freeing the Captive

- A slave-girl enslaved by Python promoting Salvation?
- False Ally, an enemy, furthering her own reputation
- Tying its lying practice to truth advance its own goals
  - Temptation to accept the endorsement?
  - Fear of losing a good thing?
  - Not wanting to be rude?
- Paul commands the spirit in Jesus' name and it flees!





# Acts 16:16-24

Act 16:19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities, 20 and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, "These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews, 21 and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans." 22 The crowd rose up together 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.

# Consequences of Doing Right?

- False, hypocritical accusations brought against them
- Racial and patriotic reasons given for grievances
- Legal action taken against them
- Stripped of their clothes and humiliated
- Beaten with rods by the stirred up mob
- Imprisoned, inner cell feet locked in stocks
- Not consequences but God's plan all along!





# Acts 16:25-34

25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; 26 and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. 27 When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!" 29 And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"



# Acts 16:25-34

31 They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. 33 And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household. 34 And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.

# Where Was God?

- In control, with perfect vision of what was needed
- Desiring that a certain jailer enter Jesus' Kingdom
- With Paul and Silas in prison inhabiting their praise
- Giving peace and joy that defied circumstance
- Shaking the prison to its foundations
- Directing Paul's conscience that his captor be saved



# Communion

- Christ is in control and He is the head of the body
- He is working in us to get us where we need to be
- His methods are not what we would choose!
- He knows where we need to be for the Gospel
- Communion is a remembrance of what He has done
- In following Him ought we not sacrifice as well?