

# Acts of the Apostles 16:16-40 \_ Lesson 39

## Paul in Prison

### 1. Acts 16 Review – For the Sake of Others

- a. Acts 15 the circumcision has a few requests – Acts 16 Paul does for the Jews' sake
  - i. They were to avoid fornication, stay pure of the unclean, and idolatry
  - ii. A circumcision to avoid fornication, going out of the city to keep the Sabbath holy, and going to jail to avoid idolatry, why? For the Jews' sake.
  - iii. Paul was not a scofflaw, he used his liberty to save some – 1 Cor 9:20-22

### 2. Acts 16:16-18 – Paul Casts Out an Evil Spirit

- a. 16:16 – We have ill-gotten gains, divination, evil spirit possession
  - i. Devil possession occurred when God's Spirit possessed kingdom believers
- b. One can either be possessed by an evil spirit, or the Holy Spirit – not both 1Co 3:16
- c. 16:17 - What she said was true, but what she was doing and who for was a sin
- d. The lure to compromise for money is strong – Titus 1:11, 1Tim 6:5,7-8, 2Co 11:7-11
- e. Paul separated himself from evil spirits by stopping her mouth – see also Mk 1:34
- f. Paul cast it out as a sign of an apostle, as Peter – Acts 5:12-16, 2 Cor 12:12

### 3. Acts 16:19-25 – Paul in Prison

- a. *"hope of their gains"* – Some don't care about preachers until it hits their lifestyle
- b. 16:20 – Injustice through perjury, how do we stop it? Swearing on a Bible. Ro 3:18
- c. *"trouble our city"* – This was the goal, they needed brainwashed and indoctrinated
- d. 16:21 – Christians were killed by Rome for not acknowledging more than one god
  - i. Not much different today; what is lawful is not always right.
  - ii. Notice the accusation is they were Jews, teaching Jewish customs.
- e. 16:23 – Paul was wrongfully accused, beate w/o trial, and imprisoned – 1 Th 2:2
- f. 16:25 - His response → prayed, sang praises to God. Paul learns Phil 4:11-12

### 4. Acts 16:26-34 – The Keeper of the Prison Saved by Grace

- a. We see here the response of grace to bad circumstances and bad people
- b. 16:28 - Paul and Silas stayed in prison when the earthquake loosed them
- c. Acts 12:19 – Peter's jailers were killed, Paul's jailer was saved
- d. *"what must I do..."* – compare Luke 3:9-11, Matt 19:16, Acts 2:37-38, Acts 16:30
- e. *"believe on..."* – No works here, just belief... and he keeps speaking in 16:32
- f. The jailer differed from Cornelius in that he did not fear God/devout – Acts 16:24

### 5. Acts 16:35-40 - Paul and the Magistrates

- a. *"let those men go"* – sounds like Moses, Paul says no. Paul is not separating from, but going to the nations.
- b. *"depart, and go in peace"* – Paul does not leave in peace, when it forsakes truth
- c. 16:38 – They did not fear Paul the Jew, but Paul the Romans, apostle of Gentiles

## 6. Paul Baptized Some

- a. “Why did Paul baptize” – a question everyone must answer in some way.
- b. The issues surrounding baptism go away when you rightly divide:
  - i. 1) He patterned the twelve (no, Gal 1:1, Acts 13:38-39, Acts 26:18)
  - ii. 2) He learned it from the Lord (no, 1 Cor 1:17)
  - iii. 3) He learned it growing up – Phi 3:5, Acts 22:3, Gal 1:14
  - iv. Baptism was Jewish! So was circumcision, taking vows, Passover, going to synagogue on the Sabbath, gathering to read scriptures, not eating meats offered to idols, etc...
  - v. Baptism was a tradition of Israel going back to the law – Lev 15:16
  - vi. Baptism was used for conversion, change of mind, new starts, becoming a disciple, entering the temple, the priesthood, marriage, etc. (study *mikveh*)
  - vii. Acts records Paul’s baptisms to show that he did not ignore his kinsmen/tradition/background
- c. No one asks, “Why did Paul stop baptizing?” or “Since Christ does all the work necessary for salvation and sanctification before God? What does baptism do for you??