SSS 4 **8 November 2026**
Text: Acts 16

16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation."

18 And this she did for many days.
But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

19 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.

20 And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city;

21 and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe."

22 Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded *them* to be beaten with rods.

23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.

24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Acts 16:16-24

1. Prayer at the Riverside

    a) This was still the established place for Prayer

    b) There were many who gathered there who were attentive to what Paul preached

2. Lydia's home

a) For resting

b) For meals

c) For planning

A SPIRITUAL BATTLE

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Acts 16:16-18

1. A certain slave girl

a) She was possessed with a spirit of divination

b) She was a fortune teller

c) She had many clients

d) She brought great success to her masters

2. She began to follow Paul and team

a) She declared that Paul and team were "servants of the Most High God"

b) And that they had come to proclaim the way of salvation

c) She kept doing this for many days

d) She was a nuisance

3. The Response of the Apostle Paul

a) He spoke to the slave girl

b) He commanded the spirit of divination to depart

c) The demon inside her was exorcised

d) Such was the power of the name of the Lord Jesus

THE FURY OF HER OWNERS (MASTERS)

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Acts 16:19-24

1. The owners knew that their slave girl would no longer be their fortune teller

2. They would suffer great losses

3. They seized Paul and Silas and brought them before the Magistrates

FALSE CHARGES

1. "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city;

2. "They teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe."

3. Analysis:

a) Antisemitic

b) Philippi was a Roman colony

c) Jewish customs were unacceptable

d) Hence there wasn't a synagogue in Philippi

RESPONSE OF THE MAGISTRATES AND THE MULTITUDES

1. The masters of the slave girl were there

2. The Multitudes

a) Bystanders

b) Clients of the slave girl

c) Friends of the masters/ owners

3. The Magistrates

a) They commanded that Paul and Silas be beaten severely

b) They were thrown into jail (maximum security)

c) Paul and Silas were locked up in the inner prison

LESSONS

1. Recalling Matthew 10
The Lord warned about persecution

2. Resistance
This must be expected

3. Physical suffering
This is also possible

4. What is needed?

a) Fortified faith

b) Filling of the Spirit of God

c) Fear has no place in the heart of the great servants of God