

ACTS 16; October 17; The Philippian Jailer Is Baptized

ANALYSIS:

1. Whom did Paul take with him in the ministry from Lystra? _____
2. Who appeared to Paul in a night vision, and what did Paul hear said?

3. Can you state ten facts about Lydia? _____

4. What brought about Paul & Silas' beating at Philippi? _____
5. What happened the night Paul & Silas prayed and sang praise unto God in prison? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

One of Satan's oppositions to the progress of the gospel in Europe appeared as a young woman who was a spiritistic medium. The real enemy was not the girl, but the evil spirit controlling her. Therefore Paul addressed "the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her" (v 18). She represented the energy or force behind pagan idolatry, which is the worship of devils (Deut 32:17; I Cor 10:20-21). All unclean spirits are subject to the name of Jesus Christ as seen by this spirit leaving the girl the same hour Paul commanded it. Let us note that the girl gave a true witness about Paul and his message, but this grieved Paul since its source was a deceptive spirit. Also note that this spirit was directly involved in making money for the masters of the girl. The Lord Jesus Christ has freed us who were once the slaves of sin and Satan (Eph 2:1-7)!

Let us judge fair speeches by the fruit which, according to the Bible, is expected to accompany a regenerated heart. "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Mt 7:20-21). "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Cor 5:17).

HELP:

1. Timotheus (v 1-3).
2. A man of Macedonia, "Come over into Macedonia and help us" (v 9).
3. We meet Lydia in Philippi, she is a worshipper of God, meets for prayer, meets on a river side, on the Sabbath, the Lord opens her heart, she attends to Paul's teaching, she is baptized, she offered and kept Paul and his team in her home, she sells purple (dye), she is from Thyatira (vs 13-15).
4. Paul cast a devil out of a girl used by her masters to make them money, they raise a false accusation against Paul and Silas before the rulers of the city, who order them to be beaten (vs 16-23).
5. God sent a great earthquake which opened the prison doors, bands fell off the prisoners, none of the prisoners fled, the jailer prepared to kill himself but Paul's words saved him, he was baptized that night, he rejoiced, believing in God with all his house, he treated Paul and Silas with great kindness and hospitality (vs 25-34)