

Wednesday night Bible study

March 24, 2021

Journey through the book of Acts

Acts 16:16ff

A slave girl with demonic powers was worth a lot to her 'owners' for supposedly predicting the future. Do we have any reason to believe (according to Scripture) that Satan is aware of all things to come? What DO we know about the Enemy according to John 8:44

Vs. 17 "...telling you the way to be saved." Interesting wording for one who is working for Satan, but declaring that these men are in fact proclaiming "the way of salvation." Perhaps this is another example of what Erwin Lutzer meant when he said, "even the devil is God's devil."

Vs. 18 Demon cast out, and the power is gone. Note what gave authority to Paul's command.

Vss. 19-21 What were the charges brought against Paul and Silas? Why weren't Timothy and Luke also seized? Were the charges legit? Why or why not?

Vs. 22 Should they have seen it coming? Consider Matt. 10:16-42; John 16:1-4 Where did all this venom come from?

MacArthur notes: The men did not receive justice under Roman law. There was no investigation of charges, no proper hearing and Paul and Silas weren't allowed to defend themselves. Beating with rods was illegal because they had not been convicted of any crime.

Vss. 25-28 Where was all this singing coming from? When have you chosen to rejoice in suffering? What was your motivation? Can you describe how you experienced God in the midst of that trial?

"Practice what you preach" is a pretty common expression about the need to live with integrity. What do you recall from Paul's letters that receive credibility here. Consider various encouragements from Philippians. See also Eph. 1:3; 3:14-20

God responded to their need in miraculous fashion. Scripture records that He touches mountains and they smoke. Psalm 104 and Job 38-40 help us grasp the muchness of God

Why did the jailer put the sword to his throat? See 12:19 and 27:42

Vs. 30 What was the most amazing event surrounding Paul's and Silas's imprisonment? Once again, as we saw in John 11, God uses our lives (sickness, health, poverty, wealth, etc.) as he wills for purposes greater than temporal pleasures.

Vss. 31-34 There has been much controversy over this text, and it has been used as the justification for infant baptism by its proponents for centuries. Is that understanding supported by the whole of Scripture? Cite evidence

There was much joy in the camp, joining all of heaven in rejoicing (Luke 15). That rejoicing in heaven still gets me... The next time you hear of someone coming to saving faith in Jesus Christ, recall that the holy Angels – basking in God's presence - find it cause for celebration. Shouldn't we?

Vs. 35-36 Morning finds our prisoners right back in prison, *where they apparently returned of their own accord*. What an incredibly gracious act on the part of these men of God. What was the assumed fate of our jailer had the prisoners escaped?

Vs. 37-40 Talk about our sufferings being used for the sake of the Kingdom! Why was Paul refusing to go quietly? Who had acted against Roman law? Who has egg on their faces and want this all to just go away?

MacArthur notes that a serious crime was committed against Paul and Silas as they were Roman citizens and it was against the law to inflict corporal punishment – especially without a trial. At risk was not only the job of the magistrate but also Philippi's status as a Roman colony

What shows Paul's shepherd heart?