



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Lesson 40 – Acts 16

People — Who is involved?

Paul, Silas and Timothy – going to visit churches and preach the gospel.

Lydia – a seller of purple from Thyatira in Asia

Spirit possessed girl - troubled Paul.

Jailor – converted after Paul's deliverance

Magistrates – wanted to see Paul and Silas leave

Places — Where does it happen?

Phrygia and Galatia – visited churches there.

Macedonia – the northern province of Greece

Philippi – a city of Macedonia where Paul taught the gospel to Lydia and the jailor.

Pearls — What information will help me to understand better?

Vs 1 – Timothy was born to a mixed marriage; thus was half-Jewish and half-Greek. He was from Lystra.

Vs 3 – Because circumcision was an issue with Jews, to avoid problems Paul had Timothy circumcised.

Vs 4 – The “decrees” are contained in the letters sent out from Jerusalem (Acts 15:23-29).

Vs 7 – Mysia was near the coast of Asia Minor; Bithynia was northeast of Mysia in northwest Asia Minor.

Vs 8 – Troas was on the northwest tip of Asia Minor about 25 miles south of ancient Troy (2 Cor. 2:12).

Vs 9 – Macedonia had been a world power under Philip of Macedon and his son, Alexander the Great.

Vs 11 – Samothrace is an island with a 5,577 foot mountain peak halfway from Troas to Neapolis.

Vs 12 – Philippi was a major city of Macedonia; a Roman city at the time; rich in copper, silver, and gold.

Vs 13 – These are apparently Jewish worshipers. This place may have served as a synagogue to them.

Vs 14 – She was a seller of purple cloth, probably produced near her home at Thyatira or Colossae.

Vs 16 – “Divination” is translated from a word we would call “Python;” i.e., a snake or dragon that supposedly inhabited ancient Delphi, originally known as Pythia. Priestesses at Delphi used that name.

Vs 17 – What she says is true, but her words could be misinterpreted or her motives lessen their influence.

Vs 21 – These Greeks claim to be concerned about the ethnic and religious influence of these Jewish intruders upon their Roman social environment.

Vs 23 – This is in effect a caning intended not only to hurt them at once but to be painful afterward.

Vs 33 – Their wounds are washed by the jailor. His sins are washed away when he is baptized.

Vs 34 – Both Lydia and the jailor take Paul and Silas home. Paul in their homes (vss. 15 and 34).

Vs 35 – The magistrates decide to let them go to avoid any other problem with them.

Vs 36 – Paul refuses to leave and reports his Roman citizenship.

Vs 38 – The fearful magistrates beg them to leave after coming personally to speak with Paul.

Perspectives – What may I learn from this chapter?

1. The gospel was needed in more distant places (Macedonia) and God sent men there.
2. The gospel applies to both those we might expect (religious Lydia) and those we do not (jailor).
3. Both Lydia and the jailor were baptized, a necessary component of their salvation.