

I. DEMONS CRY

- A. They were heading to Church (vs. 16)
  - 1. Easy to skip over this small detail but it is instrumental
    - a. Chapter 16 would have ended with vs. 15 if they had stayed home
    - b. HEB. 10:25 – “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”
    - c. Remember Thomas? Think about what he missed!
      - i. Hey, Thomas! Jesus showed up at church last night!
      - ii. Where were you?
      - iii. You don’t want to miss it if Jesus shows up!
  - 2. Not only that, but they were going to PRAYER MEETING
    - a. It wasn’t just a Sunday morning, but maybe an evening service
      - i. Sounds like they were regular attenders (many days)
      - ii. I didn’t want to go to church before I was saved
      - iii. Now I don’t want to MISS church
    - b. It’s okay if you’re feeling a little tired – come on!
      - i. It’s okay if the kids are a little sick – come on!
      - ii. It’s okay if you must get up early tomorrow – come on!
      - iii. If you can’t stop throwing up, that’s okay – stay home!
    - c. Pastor Gray built retirement homes for the widows at Berean
      - i. Just across the parking lot from the building
      - ii. Even in the ice and snow, some of the men help them over
      - iii. They don’t want to miss!
      - iv. There are good reasons to miss church, just make sure you can pass the red face test with God (not anyone here)
  - 3. They were going about the Father’s business – Gospel Preaching!
    - a. That’s why Jesus came to this Earth, btw
    - b. LUKE 19:10 – “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
    - c. That’s our job too! 2 COR. 5:18 – “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;”
- B. An accurate statement from a witch (vs. 17)
  - 1. First thing to notice is that even the demons had to tell the truth!
    - a. Look at what she says – it’s just the facts!
      - i. They are servants (obedient to their master)
      - ii. They are showing the way (accurate guides)
      - iii. They are preaching salvation (effective means)

- b. Calls to mind the demons in the man of the Gadarenes
  - c. LUKE 8:28 – “When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.”
- 2. She was a fortune teller – vague messages of nonsense (astrology, etc.)
- 3. She was owned and used for PROFIT to her masters
  - a. The Bible does not say whether she got Saved or not
  - b. I think it likely because she refuses to take part in witchcraft
  - c. But it could be that she simply had a clear mind for the first time
- C. Paul casts out the demon (vs. 18) – singular (he)
  - 1. Paul was “grieved” – does not mean he was “annoyed”
    - a. Paul was smart enough to understand the situation
    - b. And the girl had not ASKED for help (like the Gadarenian man)
    - c. But he wanted to help her – she was in distress
  - 2. Anyone under demonic influence is IN DISTRESS
  - 3. And she was given liberty from the demonic oppression
    - a. Another reason to think she might have been saved:
    - b. MATT. 12:43-45 - “When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. (44) Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. (45) Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.”
    - c. But she stood fast!
    - d. GAL. 5:1 – “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”

## II. DEPUTIES CHARGE

- A. The loss of monetary gain led to prosecution and persecution (vs. 19-20)
  - 1. The world hates Christ by its very nature – but mostly only passively
  - 2. However, if you affect their money, it becomes active hatred INSTANTLY!
    - a. If you affect their lifestyle, they will GO AFTER YOU! Expect it!
    - b. That’s what they did to Jesus after all
  - 3. JOHN 15:18 – “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.”
- B. The charges against them were patent lies (vs. 21-22)
  - 1. They caught them – used their hands to take them by force
  - 2. They didn’t take them to court but to the court of PUBLIC OPINION
    - a. Notice who decided – the MULTITUDES (vs. 22)

- b. And the WEAK-KNEED politicians kowtowed to them
    - c. This is a Biblical example of CANCEL CULTURE!
  - 3. Not only that, Paul AND Silas WERE ROMANS! (vs. 37)
- C. The unjust punishment came swiftly (vs. 23-24)
  - 1. They were not allowed to speak for themselves (illegal)
  - 2. They were Romans beaten uncondemned (illegal)
  - 3. They were beaten INSTANTLY and thrown in jail!

### III. DELIVERANCE COMES

- A. Look at their plight – the spot they found themselves in
  - 1. Deep, dark, and dank – that Roman prison, filthy!
  - 2. And remember, they had been beaten, and left in pain
  - 3. They had OPEN WOUNDS – the jailor later dressed them (vs. 33)
- B. Listen to their song in the night (vs. 25)
  - 1. Some of us would be singing “Down in the Valley”
  - 2. But they were singing “I’ve Got a Mansion”
  - 3. They had FAITH and CONTENTMENT
  - 4. PHIL. 4:11 – “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”
- C. Learn from their DIVINE DELIVERANCE (vs. 26)
  - 1. This is an act of God – not of good thoughts or magic prayers
  - 2. Do we sometimes get the wrong idea about prayer?
    - a. If only I say the “right words”...
    - b. I can get God to do what I want – UNTRUE!
    - c. Our obligation is for us to do what GOD wants!
  - 3. They trusted even though they had no outward indication God would act
  - 4. Keep on trusting God – but don’t stop doing the right thing!

### IV. DIRECT QUESTION

- A. See the jailor’s CONVICTION (vs. 27-29)
  - 1. The jailor feared for his life first (he thought they had escaped)
  - 2. Then the jailor feared for his SOUL!
  - 3. He called for a light and he got more than he bargained for!
  - 4. JOHN 12:46 – “I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.”
- B. Hear the jailor’s QUESTION (vs. 30-31)
  - 1. The only time this question is directly asked and answered in the Bible
  - 2. What’s the answer? BELIEVE!
    - a. JOHN 3:18 – “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

- b. JOHN 5:24 – “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”
      - c. Plus nothing, minus nothing!
    - 3. Not believe in yourself, not believe in your good works, but in JESUS
    - 4. And you can’t believe you’re “okay” and believe in a Savior
      - a. Only those who know they’re in jeopardy realize their need
      - b. Only those who are in danger need a Savior
- C. Witness the jailor’s CONVERSION (vs. 32-34)
  - 1. He changes immediately – before he was okay with their wounds
    - a. Now he cleans them and treats them
    - b. Before he was okay with the darkness, now he calls for a light!
    - c. Before he was against them
    - d. Now he protects them from his bosses
  - 2. There was REJOICING. His entire family got saved
  - 3. He joined the church in Philippi
    - a. Maybe he became one of the pastors and deacons addressed
    - b. When Paul wrote in the Book of Philippians
    - c. PHIL. 1:3 – “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,”

## V. DOMINION CLEAR

- A. God knows where His children are
  - 1. He knew about the jail; He knew what He would do
  - 2. He knew about the witch, and He knew about the jailor
  - 3. God WILL glorify His name!
  - 4. ROM.8:28 – “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”
- B. God had dominion in the lives of Paul and Silas
  - 1. And they TRUSTED Him – they were His Servants
  - 2. They knew God is GOOD
  - 3. Even if they died in that jail, it was their plan to continue to SERVE HIM
- C. What about you?
  - 1. Do you trust God?
  - 2. You can!
  - 3. Be Saved Today!