

Acts 16:6-40 **From Iconium to Philippi – Jailer Saved** (Second journey continued)

Do not preach in Asia

⁶ Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. ⁷ After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. ⁸ So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

To Philippi in Macedonia

¹¹ Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day came to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days.

House of Lydia

¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. ¹⁴ Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. ¹⁵ And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

Slave girl freed – Paul and Silas in Jail

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.

Miraculous release and Jailer Saved

²⁵ But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. ²⁷ And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. ²⁸ But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." ²⁹ Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Public Release

35 And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "Let those men go." 36 So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace." 37 But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out." 38 And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. 39 Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city. 40 So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Do not preach in Asia

✚ Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them [Acts 16:6-10]

✧ After stopping and strengthening the churches established on the Northern leg of the first missionary journey, Derby, Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch of Pisidia. [Acts 13:14-52, 14:1-20]

✧ Paul, Silas, and Timothy [Acts 15:40-41, 16:1-5] were traveling Northwest across Asia through the territories of Galatia, Phrygia and Mysia and they desired to turn north to the territory of Bithynia, but the Holy Spirit did not permit them to go there or to preach in Asia (all these are territories in present day western Turkey, also called Asia Minor).

✧ Luke the writer of the book of Acts was himself accompanying Paul, Silas, and Timothy as evidenced by his using the words "we" and "us" as "**we** sought to go to Macedonia" and "concluding that the Lord had called **us** to preach the gospel to them." [Acts 16:15]

✧ **Mysia** is the westernmost province of Asia, bordering on the East by Phrygia and Bithynia, on the North by Bithynia and the Sea of Marmora, on the West by the Aegean Sea, and South by Lydia.

✧ **Bithynia** is bounded on the North by the Black Sea, South and East by Phrygia and Galatia, and West by Mysia.

✧ **Troas** was a seaport town on the coast of Mysia and the Aegean Sea.

✧ At Troas Paul saw a vision calling them to Macedonia.

✧ **Macedonia** is a country north of Greece, North of the Aegean Sea, the home state of Philip of Macedon the father of Alexander the Great.

From Troas in Mysia to Philippi in Macedonia

✚ Therefore, sailing from **Troas**, we ran a straight course to **Samothrace**, and the next day came to **Neapolis**, and from there to **Philippi**, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days. [Acts 16:11-12]

✧ Paul and his party sailed from Troas to the Greek island of **Samothrace** where they spent the night and the next day sailed on to **Neapolis** a seaport city on the coast of Macedonia.

- ✧ **Philippi** was ten miles inland from port city of Neapolis.
- ✧ Paul and his party spent some days in Philippi.

House of Lydia

- ✧ And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. Now a certain woman named **Lydia** heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us. [Acts 16:13-15]
- ✧ Apparently there was no Synagogue in Philippi, and no Jewish men meeting to pray.
- ✧ Apparently they had inquired in the town where prayer was customarily made on the Sabbath, this would be for the Jews in the area when there was no synagogue.
- ✧ There was a spot by the riverside where it was customary for prayer to be made.
- ✧ Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke sat down with the women who met there and spoke to them about salvation in Jesus.
- ✧ **Lydia** was a business woman in Philippi from Thyatira who was a seller of Purple.
 - ✧ She seems to be a devout woman who worshiped God.
 - ✧ Her heart was opened by the Lord as she heard Paul speak of the Gospel of Jesus.
 - ✧ She was moved to respond to the message of Salvation, and she and her household were baptized.
 - ✧ She invited Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke to her house to stay, pressing them to accept the invitation, and they complied.
 - ✧ Luke the writer of the book of Acts included himself by using the word "us" as "she persuaded us." [Acts 16:15]

Slave girl freed – Paul and Silas in Jail

- ✧ 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. 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.**" [Acts 16:16-17]
- ✧ 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. [Acts 16:18]
- ✧ 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. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. [Acts 16:19-24]
- ✧ The setting was at a time of prayer.
- ✧ Divination is a part of witchcraft which God condemned and for which God prescribed the death penalty. [Exodus 22:18, Leviticus 19:26, Deuteronomy 18:10-14]
- ✧ The demonic spirit that possessed the slave girl enabled her to know and express things that the general public did not know, and thereby gave her owners great income. [Acts 16:16]

- ✧ Satan and his demon hoards are quite aware of God's servants and recognize them, just as they knew Jesus when He was here in His ministry. [Acts 16:17, Mark 1:23, 3:11, 5:1-13, Luke 4:33-35, 8:29-31]
- ✧ The demon possessed girl followed Paul and those with him who were going to prayer, her message was correct, but her timing was a nuisance and a great annoying distraction from the believers purpose.
 - ✧ The men truly were servants of the Most High God, and they did indeed proclaim to the people the way of salvation, just as the girl said, however the way she proclaimed it and the timing became a disrupting interference to their ministry.
- ✧ Paul tolerated it for many days before he took action against the spirit of divination by commanding it to come out of the girl in the name of Jesus Christ.
- ✧ The name of Jesus Christ (Messiah) has power over the evil spirits that come to disrupt the deliverance of the Gospel message, so the spirit of divination came out of the girl as commanded.
- ✧ Since the girl was the source of her master's income by her fortune-telling, and now with the spirit of divination gone from her, she no longer had that ability and her masters were upset.
 - ✧ As usual, when the source of someone's income is destroyed, the person will react very violently against their perceived source of the threat.
- ✧ The girl's masters dragged Paul and Silas into the marketplace and before the authorities and magistrates, accusing them as Jews of greatly troubling the city by teaching things Romans called unlawful.
 - ✧ It is interesting how the enemies of God do not react against individuals without making the attack against the Jewish people at large.
 - ✧ This is the way of people like Haman the Agagite a descendant of Amalek the enemy of the Jews in the time of Ester, and Adolph Hitler in the time of the Holocaust.
 - ✧ It is the spirit of anti-Semitism of the world today.
 - ✧ As usual, they incited the multitudes to violence against Paul and Silas the preachers of the Gospel message.
- ✧ The magistrates, swayed by the violence of the rioters, lashed out against Paul and Silas, had them beaten with rods with many stripes, and threw them into prison.
 - ✧ Being commanded to keep them securely, the jailer put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. That was as secure as they knew how to make it.

Miraculous release and Jailer Saved [Acts 16:25-34]

- ✧ But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. [Acts 16:25]
 - ✧ Here you see the strength of character given by the Holy Spirit, to worship God in the time of great pain and persecution which had come upon them unjustly.
 - ✧ Paul practiced what he taught when he said, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18]
 - ✧ Their prayers and songs must have dealt with their hope of Salvation, because that is what the jailer addressed when they were freed.
- ✧ Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. [Acts 16:26]
 - ✧ God confirmed His approval of the ministry of Paul and Silas by miraculous action.
- ✧ And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. [Acts 16:27]

- ✧ The jailer knew that his life was on the line for allowing prisoners to escape from high security imprisonment, so out of despair he was about to end his own life.
- ✚ But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." [Acts 16:28]
 - ✧ Paul saved the jailer's life by letting him know that they were all there.
- ✚ Then he (the jailer) called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" [Acts 16:29-30]
 - ✧ The jailer knew that they were in prison for the Gospel of Salvation.
- ✚ So they (Paul and Silas) said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. [Acts 16:31-32]
 - ✧ The message of Salvation is through believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, but they did not just give that simple answer, but they taught him the word of the Lord for deeper understanding.
 - ✧ Included in hearing the Gospel of Salvation were all the people of the jailer's household.
 - ✧ This was wonderful to realize because it all happened after midnight.
- ✚ And he (the jailer) took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household. [Acts 16:33-34]
 - ✧ The jailer was convinced that they were honorable men and moved by compassion he tended to their wounds.
 - ✧ He and his entire family were baptized as believers of the Gospel message.
 - ✧ They were not released from prison, but they were taken to the jailer's house where the jailer set food before them, and rejoiced in his new-found faith with all his household.

Public Release [Acts 16:35-40]

- ✚ And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "Let those men go." So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace." [Acts 16:35-36]
 - ✧ With the riot ended the magistrates had no reason for keeping them in prison.
- ✚ But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out." [Acts 16:37]
 - ✧ Paul used his Roman citizenship against the magistrates, demanding a public release to absolve them of any guilt before the people.
 - ✧ Paul obtained his Roman citizenship at birth, being born a Roman in the city of Tarsus of the Roman province of Cilicia. [Acts 21:39, 22:25-29]
- ✚ And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city. [Acts 16:38-39]
 - ✧ The magistrates were terrified because they had beaten and imprisoned uncondemned Roman citizens.
 - ✧ The magistrates came and pleaded with Paul and Silas, bringing them out of the prison and asking them to depart from the city.
- ✚ So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed. [Acts 16:40]
 - ✧ Being publicly freed from prison in Philippi, Paul and Silas went to the house of Lydia, encouraged the brethren, and departed from the city.

