

inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.

11. Discussion: (a) What special ability did the demon give to the possessed girl? (b) What caution, if any, do you see in being too curious about the future? (c) Why do you think Paul got so exasperated with her? (d) What authority did Paul use to deliver the girl from the demon's power? (e) Why did this blessing to the girl bring so much trouble to Paul and Silas? (f) Even today, is money often still more important than inner peace? Can you give an example that illustrates this?

Lesson 22 begins with Paul and Silas locked up in the Philippian jail.

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An Interactive Life Application Bible Study of the Acts of the Apostles for Small Groups

Key: *Blue = New Testament* *Red = Words of Jesus*
Green = Old Testament Quotes

Lesson 21

1. Introduction: After the Council at Jerusalem, Paul and Silas began Paul's second missionary journey.

2. Paul's Second Missionary Journey

Acts 16:1-5 Paul went first to Derbe and then to Lystra, where there was a young disciple named Timothy. His mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was a Greek. ² Timothy was well thought of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium, ³ so Paul wanted him to join them on their journey. In deference to the Jews of the area, he arranged for Timothy to be circumcised before they left, for everyone knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴ Then they went from town to town, instructing the believers to follow the decisions made by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. ⁵ So the churches were strengthened in their faith and grew larger every day.

3. Discussion: (a) Who was Paul trying to please by having Timothy circumcised? Was it required? (b) Can you remember and list the rules the elders in Jerusalem agreed to require of the Gentiles. (c) What was the evidence that this second journey was producing good results?

4. A Call from Macedonia

Acts 16:6-10 Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia [W. and S.W Turkey] at that time. ⁷ Then coming to the borders of Mysia [N.W. Turkey], they headed north for the province of Bithynia [S. or the Black Sea], but again the Spirit of Jesus did

not allow them to go there.⁸ So instead, they went on through Mysia [N.W. Turkey] to the seaport of Troas [E. Aegean Sea].

⁹ That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia, in northern Greece, was standing there, pleading with him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!"¹⁰ So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.

5. Discussion: (a) How do you think Paul and Silas knew the Holy Spirit was preventing them from ministering in Asia and Bithynia, but was calling them, instead, to travel to Macedonia? (b) Is the Holy Spirit still able to clearly guide people today, as he did then? Explain your answer? [Look up Ps. 48:14 and Jn. 16:13]

6. The trip to Philippi.

Acts 16:11-12 We boarded a boat at Troas and sailed straight across to the island of Samothrace [in the northern Aegean Sea], and the next day we landed at Neapolis [the major seaport near Macedonia].¹² From there we reached Philippi, a major city of that district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. And we stayed there several days.

7. Background: It is interesting to note that the writer of the Book of Acts addresses himself as we, beginning with Acts 16:11. Most scholars believe that Luke joined Paul and Silas at this point. In Acts 1:1-2 he introduced himself as the author of the Book of Acts.

8. Lydia of Philippi Believes in Jesus.

Acts 16:13-15 On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there.¹⁴ One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who

worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying.¹⁵ She was baptized along with other members of her household, and she asked us to be her guests. "If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my home." And she urged us until we agreed.

9. Discussion: (a) What evidence do you see that Lydia was a Jewish believer in God before Paul and Silas arrived? (b) What does Lydia's decision to be baptized tell us about her spiritual growth as a result of Paul's preaching? (c) What do you think motivated Lydia to insist that Paul's missionary team should stay at her home?

10. Paul and Silas in Prison

Acts 16:16-24 One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a demon-possessed slave girl. She was a fortune-teller who earned a lot of money for her masters.¹⁷ She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved."

¹⁸ This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And instantly it left her.

¹⁹ Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace.²⁰ "The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews!" they shouted to the city officials.²¹ "They are teaching customs that are illegal for us Romans to practice."

²² A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods.²³ They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape.²⁴ So the jailer put them into the