

DEVOTION #2

Paul & Silas in Prison

THINK

- What are some of the different responses you've seen to the work of churches and Christians?

READ

ACTS 16:16-24

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

When her owners realised that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

REFLECT

- How does the slave-girl respond to Paul's activities in Philippi?
- Why might Paul have gotten annoyed at what was happening?
- What does Paul do?
- Why were the owners unhappy with Paul's actions? How do they respond?
- Why is Paul in Philippi?

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REFLECT

- What happens to Paul and Silas?
- Later on in Acts, Paul continues to seek to share the good news of Jesus in other cities. Why would he keep going after his treatment in Philippi?
- How does Paul's example encourage us in our Christian life?

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for Paul's perseverance in sharing the gospel. We ask that You will be with us as we continue to trust in the good news of Jesus, even when things are tough. **Amen!**