

# THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## CHAPTER 16:19-40

Media Reference Number SM - 201

### TITLE:

## "SEEING GOD'S HAND AT WORK"

BEING READY TO SHARE TO LORD

### THEME:

Acts 1:8

*"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and "you shall be witnesses to Me" in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

In Acts 16 God has been doing what God likes to do...

## *Opening Doors for Ministry & Liberating Hearts*

### Jesus said, Luke 4:18-19

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed;

## Here in Philippi, God wins 3 different Kinds of Sinners

- He Opened the heart of a **Religious Woman** vv. 14
- He Opened the heart of a **Slave Girl**, Possessed Heart vv. 18
- God will Open the heart of **Broken & Hardened Man**, vv. 19-40

### Revelation 3:8

"Behold, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it.....  
for you have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

1.) Recognizing God's Hand at Work vv. 20-24

2.) Rejoicing in the Will of God vv. 25-26

3.) Remembering Our Mission in Life vv. 27-34

4.) Seizing the Opportunities & Situations vv. 35-40

1.) Recognizing God's Hand at Work vv. 20-24

**A. THEY STOOD ON WHAT JESUS HAD COMMANDED THEM VV 19-21**

**Verse 19-20**

They Find Themselves *Persecuted and Rejected for what Jesus had told them to do in the First Place !!!*

---

**Jack, were you Arrested in Russia ?**

*We were just about to set up for a street outreach in Russia,  
when a unit from the Russian militia pulled up...*

---

I had vision of *a smoke-filled room with a lamp suspended over my head while I was asked...." So, what are you really doing here in Russia?"*

**But It was only to the furtherance of the gospel...**

**They Only Wanted to Give Us Protection**

**Verse 21**

**Caesar was the god of Romans**

**Their Traditions**

**Personal Application about Traditions**

**B. THE PRICE WAS GREAT PAIN & EMBARRASSMENT VV. 22-23**

## Verse 22-23

### A Roman Beating was Often Fatal

to make them a public example - this was a display

Paul, a Godly man, was Often Beaten for His Witness of Christ..... I wonder just what would happen if **Billy Graham** was to be pulled from the platform to be beaten?

#### 2 Corinthians 11:23-28

in whippings I have received above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. :24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. :25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; :26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; :27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness-- :28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. -

**That's "Hands On" Ministry - where do we sign up?**

#### Acts 5:40-41

.....they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. :41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

#### 2 Timothy 3:12

**Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**

### The Things We Whine About

Stuck in Atlanta Int. Airport

*"Isn't it funny, We're all in such a hurry to get to LA.. as long as there isn't any earthquakes or riots going on...."*

#### Acts 14:22c

**"We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."**

#### Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

#### Isaiah 54:17

No weapon formed against you shall prosper...

The Feet, The Hands & The Head !!!  
Like a big C

2.) Rejoicing in the Will of God

vv. 25-26

A. THEY WERE PRAYING TO THE LORD

VV. 25A

## Midnight

is the worst hour for pain and torment

\* **Praying** GRK 4336 **proseuchomai** prayer to God in the form of worship.

1 Thessalonians 5:18  
in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

B. THEY WERE SINGING OF THE LORD

VV. 25B

\* **Singing** GRK 5214 **humneo** (hoom-neh'-o)  
to hymn, to celebrate (God) in song:

The Original Bible, Greek has it this way...

They Were "Praying Hymns"

They were "Singing Prayers" to God

2 Samuel 22:1-4

Then David spoke to the LORD, the words of this song....."The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; :3 The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; my Savior, You save me from violence. :4 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies.

Psalm 42:8

The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night His song shall be with me-- a prayer to THE GOD OF MY LIFE.

C. THEY WERE A WITNESS TO ALL

VV. 25C

- They were praying and singing !!!
- Not crying and singing The blues
- Not whining and singing Country Western

they were Praying & Hymning

~~~~~ They Listened ~~~~~

- \* **Listening** GRK 1874 epakroamai (ep-ak-ro-ah'-om-ahee)  
to listen intently, to straining the ear (a pleasure)  
“and the prisoners where listening to them...”

Well Jack, What else are prisoners going to do???  
They're a captive audience !!!

**Acceptance or Rejection**  
of Christ has Nothing to do with your situation

The Lord Must Have Liked the Tune,  
Because there was a

---

**Great Earthquake**

The Lord began to tap His Foot

---

Only as a Christian can you influences Heaven - and Worship and Prayer Influences  
Heaven !!!

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him  
must worship in spirit and truth."

**all** the doors were opened and  
**every one's** chains were loosed

### 3.) Remembering Our Mission in Life vv. 27-34

#### A. PAUL GOES AFTER THE JAILER

VV. 27-28

This man is on the brink of suicide (*he even had good reason to*) *In the Midst of God doing a work - a man is about to take his own life*

#### Verse 28

Paul called with a loud voice

\* **Called** GRK 5455 phone (fo-neh'-o)  
to send a message, to address word

Paul Made the First 911 Call

**Paul was focused on saving  
the Captain of the Jail**

#### B. THE WORLD IS STILL IN DARKNESS

VV. 29-30

You needn't go to Philippi or Saint Petersburg... all of us just one lost sinner

#### Verse 29

This Jailer was no Panty-Waist *I've been to Prison... some of those jailers are worse than those on the inside.*

# Job Qualifications; Hardened and Brutal

He Drove a Beat up Black Donkey  
with a Rifle Rack

## Verse 30

### He Asked the Question of the Ages

vv. 30 What must I do to be saved?

C. THEY DELIVERED TO HIM THE SIMPLE GOSPEL VV. 31-33

## Verse 31

- Apply for church membership
- Pledge a vow that you'll give \$50.00 a month
- Join our denomination

Acts 15:1

"Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of  
Moses, you cannot be saved."

\* **Believe** **GRK 4100 pisteuo (pist-yoo'-o)**  
to have faith (**in** someone and **upon** someone.)  
to **entrust** another with your personal well-being  
to **cling** to, to **rely** upon , to **rest** in

Jesus said

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature - **"He who believes will be saved;** but he who does not believe will be condemned.

**Acts 2:21**

And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

### John 3:17-19

:17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. :18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God..... :19 "And this is **The Condemnation**, (This is what separates you from heaven or hell) that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

## It's - Believe !!!

Ephesians 2:5,8

even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) ..... 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that is not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

"household" meaning "if they do the same as you"

When a father or husband "BELIEVES" *his home, children and marriages are totally changed*

### Verse 32

Notice The Converted Heart Of Restitution  
*he begins to undo what was done*

The Power of Being a Christian

#### In Luke 5:

The paralyzed man is lowered down through the roof  
and Jesus says to him....

"Man, your sins are forgiven you." :21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

- Wait a Minute - They're Right & Wrong

Luke 17:3-4

"Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. "And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

## The One Sinned Against Always Pays The Price Forgiveness is for Us

*you can be imprisoned by someone who hurt you, who sinned against you - because of you being wronged - you have become bitter - you've allowed them to have power over you because you refuse to forgive them- and they still are hurting you even though it's been months or years since you've spoken to them.*

# Forgive Them & Be Freed

Note the Progression;

- #1 The message goes out and is received
- #2 The Man is Converted
- #3 He's discipled
- #4 The Good news spreads through his house

Verse 33-34

#5 The Philippian jailer became a servant

**A Moment Earlier, He Was Tearing Paul & Silas Up  
Now, He's Covering Up The Wounds He Had Made**

Remember Zacchaeus, he was up a tree

**Luke 19:8-9**

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." :9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;..... :10 "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Prints are taken to find out who's responsible!

### This is God's Finger

- if you're **saved** but never discipled - you'll be a carnal Christian
- if you're **saved** and **discipled** but never serve - you become stagnate
- but if you're **saved**, **discipled** and **ministering** to others you will grow in leaps and bounds - life will be an awesome joy to live

How Many Mothers do We have Here ?  
Your Child or Children are your Mission Field

Daniel 12:3

Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

#### 4.) Seizing the Opportunities

vv. 35-40

#### Verse 35-40

Paul Rightfully Used what was Legally His  
*Sneaking out of town would have looked suspect*

#### “SEEING GOD’S HAND AT WORK”

- Life's situations are platforms/stages where God performs His work
- A desire to see God's hand move in the earth will provide opportunities
- A prison cell became a sanctuary - their comfort didn't matter

## The Growth of the very First Church in Europe

- A HARD-CORE, ROUGHNECK JAILER - SET FREE
- AN EX-SATANIST TEENAGER - AT PEACE
- A RICH AND BEAUTIFUL BUSINESS WOMAN - FULFILLED

### *Calvary Chapel of Philippi*

What a Potluck that must have made !!!

Look around this place this morning

**>>>>> Transport for Christ Min.<<<<<**

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, (you will not inherit the kingdom of God) nor idolaters, (you will not inherit the kingdom of God) nor adulterers, (you will not inherit the kingdom of God) nor homosexuals, (you will not inherit the kingdom of God) nor sodomites, (you will not inherit the kingdom of God) :10 nor thieves, (you will not inherit the kingdom of God) nor covetous people, (you will not inherit the kingdom of God) nor drunkards, (you will not inherit the kingdom of God) nor revilers, (you will not inherit the kingdom of God) nor extortioners (you will not inherit the kingdom of God) will inherit the kingdom of God. :11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

### "Paul Encouraged Them"

God has a great Plan Here Guys  
He Pointed them in "Their Direction"