

this? (For instance, what attitudes toward self, God, circumstances, the other prisoners, or the jailer do these actions show?) How can you adopt Paul and Silas's response and attitudes?

Sermon Notes

"God's Power on Display"

Acts 16:11-40

March 10, 2019

- b. Acts 16:32 makes it clear that the missionaries explained the gospel in greater detail, yet v. 31 was a concise summary statement of the response God requires. What other similar summary phrases have we encountered in Acts (2:38; 3:19; 10:43, 47; 11:17, 21; 13:38-39, 15:7, 9, 11, 19; 16:31)? What do each of these contribute to our understanding of "saving faith"?
- c. What actions does Luke cite as immediate evidence of the genuineness of the faith of Lydia (16:14-15)? Of the jailer (16:29-36)? Discuss how this relates to Paul's instructions to the Philippians in Phil. 2:12-16.

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

This week we lift up missionaries we support who work in sensitive areas of the world. We pray that the Gospel message is understood and many come to know the Lord.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 03-10-19

Questions adapted from Phyllis J. Le Peau, Acts: Seeing God's Power in Action, A LifeGuide Bible Study, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2002, pp. 50-52; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 208-209; Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Acts: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 137-140.

Getting Started:

1. What is your idea of hospitality?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read Acts 16:11-15.

a. Why was it necessary for God to open Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message (16:14)?

b. What significance does this fact have for you personally, in your evangelism and in your prayers?

3. Read Acts 16:16-21.

a. Describe the slave-girl that Paul and his companions met (16:16-18). How was she being exploited?

"Paul challenged things that were destructive to people's well-being and liberated a woman from a vocation that was taking advantage of her. ... The real problem was not the girl but the demonic forces and the desire for greed that drove her vocation. Fernando speaks of how reluctant we are today to see anything as demonic or as being influenced by malevolent spiritual forces. We ignore such destructiveness to our peril." (Darrell Bock, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, Acts, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, MI, 2007, p. 545).

b. Do you agree with the above quote? Why or why not?

c. In our society, what are some ways people are in bondage to evil?

d. There are many reasons that people reject the gospel. Instead of seeing the power of God displayed, the owners of the slave girl focused on other things. What objections did they have (16:19-21)? How do monetary interests distort perception? What are reasons that you hear offered by some today for rejecting the truth?

4. Read Acts 16:21-40

a. Bloody and battered in the stocks of a lightless prison, Paul and Silas spent the night "praying and singing hymns to God" (16:23-25). Why do you think they did