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FELLOWSHIP

Acts 16:16-24

Exorcism, Conflict, Imprisonment

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A Spirit of Divination

Acts 16:16-17 (NASB)

It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation."

- In Luke 8:28, a demonized man called Jesus "Son of the Most High God"
- The spirit is called a "python" spirit (Greek)

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Paul Casts Out the Python Spirit

Acts 16:18 (NASB)

She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.

- Three aorist verbs: "annoyed"; "turned"; "said"
- Paul acts with apostolic authority which was previously given to the 12 (Luke 9:1) and the 70 (Luke 10:17)

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The Exorcism Creates Conflict

Acts 16:19-21 (NASB)

But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities, and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, "These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews, and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans."

- Play on words: the spirit "went out" *exerchomai* (v 18) the hope for profit "went out" *exerchomai*

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Legal Action Against Paul and Silas

Acts 16:22-24 (ESV)

The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

- Luke's words do not denote a mob riot
- Paul will not appeal to his Roman citizenship until later

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