



Acts 16:19-30

Conflict, Imprisonment, and Supernatural Intervention

by Bob DeWaay

November 22, 2020

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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Prayer, Praise and an Earthquake

Acts 16:25-26 (ESV)

About midnight Paul and Silas were **praying and singing hymns** to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

- "Singing hymns" is *humneo*: songs to God which extolled His virtues and mighty deeds
- Pagans thought earthquakes were actions of a god

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The Philippian Jailer

Acts 16:27-30 (ESV)

When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?**"

- He wanted to avoid torture for allowing escape
- "Saved" means "rescued from serious peril"

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