

GOSPEL
of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Acts 16:35-17:1

Civil Authorities and Travel

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The Civil Authorities Are Sent

Acts 16:35, 36 (ESV)
But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, “**Let those men go.**” And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, “The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace.”

- “Magistrates” are *strate_gos* “police” are *rhabdouchos* which were “rod bearers”
- They had already been beaten with rods (wrongly) now the rod bearers come to release them

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Paul Reveals His Citizenship

Acts 16:37 (ESV)
But Paul said to them, “They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out.”

- The public beating created shame (1 Thes. 2:2 ESV)
- Romans citizens could not be flogged and imprisoned without due process
- Slaves and non-citizens did not have such rights

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They Want Paul and Titus Gone

Acts 16:38-39 (NASB)
The policemen reported these words to the chief magistrates. They were afraid when they heard that they were Romans, and they came and appealed to them, and when they had brought them out, they kept begging them to leave the city.

- Now the preachers have the upper hand and the Romans want to avoid any future conflicts
- This shows God’s providence in bringing the gospel to Jews and Gentiles in Philippi

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Lydia Brackets the Philippi Narrative

Acts 16:40 (NASB)
They went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia, and when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

- Encouraged is *parakaleo*_ which has a range of meanings: “exhort, comfort, encourage or admonish”; the context shows the meaning.

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Traveling West

Acts 17:1 (NASB)
Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.

- This was a journey of about 106 miles
- Those with Paul included Silas (17:4) and Timothy (17:14)
- Paul typically would preach first in synagogues

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