



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study Scripture Theme: 2 Timothy 2:15

August 27, 2024

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The Book of Acts

THEME: CAN I GET A WITNESS - THE GOSPEL TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

THEME SCRIPTURE: ACTS 1:8

Lesson Topic: More Open Doors – Christ for the Philippian Jailer

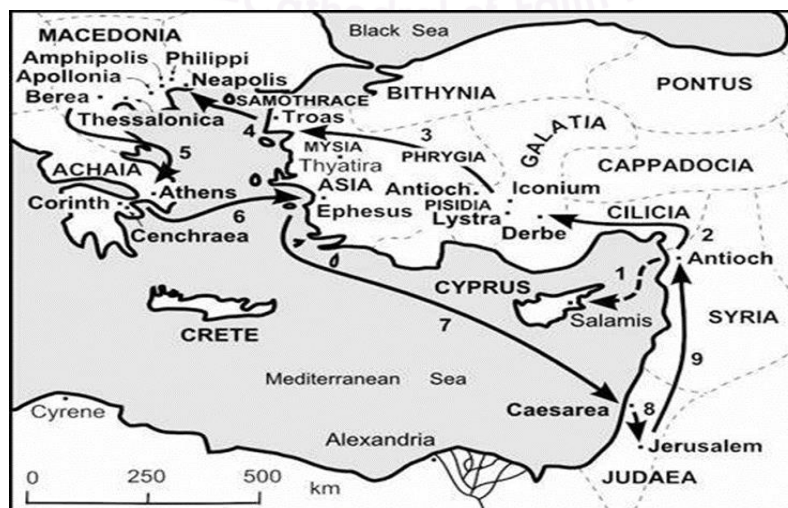
Lesson Scripture: Acts 16:25-40

I. BACKGROUND

A. People: Paul, Silas, Timothy, Lydia; A demon-possessed girl; The girl's owners; The magistrate; A man from Macedonia; The Philippian Jailer; Prisoners

B. Culture

- i. Places: Galatia -v6; Mysia v7; Bithynia – v7; Troas – v8; Macedonia – v9; V. 11 Samothrace – v11; Neapolis – v11; Philippi – v12; A Roman colony – v12; Thyatira – v14.



- ii. Cultural Background – Timothy’s Circumcision.
A Place of Prayer

II. GOD’S OPEN DOORS Acts 16:6-40

- A. God Opened the Way – vv. 6:12
- B. God Opened Lydia’s Heart – vv. 13-15
 - J_____ is not merely a reaction to good things E_____,
rather, joy is a complete C_____ of the H_____
and S_____
- C. God Opened Prison Doors – vv. 25-40
 - S_____ D_____ is being separated from God.
 - P_____ D_____ is being separated from your body.
 - E_____ D_____ occurs when you die and
you are separated from God in hell for all eternity
 - Two types of persons: S_____ and U_____.
 - There must be an A_____ of being L_____.

III. PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

- A. What Does This Teach Us About God?
 - ✓ God is deliberate with His miraculous works (v26)
 - ✓ God's Transformative Power: Acts 16:25-26 inspires confidence in God's transformative power. It reminds us that no physical, emotional, or spiritual prison is beyond God's ability to shake its foundations and bring liberation.
 - ✓ Divine Intervention: The sudden occurrence of a great earthquake is a divine intervention. In biblical imagery, earthquakes often signify God's powerful presence and intervention in human affairs (Exodus 19:18; Revelation 11:13). This earthquake is a manifestation of God's power.
 - ✓ Shaken Foundations: The shaking of the foundations of the prison signifies a disruption of the established order. It mirrors the transformative impact of God's intervention, breaking through the structures that held Paul and Silas captive.
 - ✓ Doors Opened: The immediate opening of all the doors signifies a liberation from physical constraints. It's a tangible demonstration of God's power to break chains and open doors that seemed impenetrable.

- ✓ Chains Loosened: The loosening of everyone's chains emphasizes comprehensive freedom. This isn't just about Paul and Silas; it extends to all in the prison. The transformative power of God's intervention brings freedom to the entire community.
- ✓ Divine Liberation: The earthquake and the subsequent liberation convey a theological message about God's power to set people free. It extends beyond physical liberation to a deeper spiritual freedom from the bondage of sin and despair.
- ✓ God saves:
 - The prisoners from the earthquake (v28)
 - The jailer from taking his own life (v29)
 - The family of the jailer (v31)
- ✓ God is glorified through baptism (v33)
- ✓ God is glorified through fellowship (v34)

B. What Does This Teach Us About People/Ourselves?

- ✓ God is glorified through prayer and song (v25) The setting is significant; it's midnight in a prison. Instead of succumbing to despair, Paul and Silas respond to their difficult circumstances with prayer and singing hymns. This demonstrates a profound resilience and trust in God, even in the face of adversity.
- ✓ Prayer and praise is not dependent on our circumstances (Paul & Silas v25-26) Worship in Adversity: Acts 16:25-26 teaches a profound lesson about worship in adversity. Instead of despairing, the response of Paul and Silas teaches us that worship can be a powerful act of defiance against the chains of suffering.
- ✓ Prisoners Listening: The fact that the prisoners were listening to Paul and Silas indicates that their worship was not a private affair. Their response to suffering becomes a testimony, an expression of faith that captivates the attention of those around them.
- ✓ We allow our identity to be defined by our career (Jailer v27)
- ✓ Our lives change when we are introduced to God (Prisoners v28)
- ✓ Faith in Difficult Times: The example of Paul and Silas encourages believers to maintain faith and worship even in the darkest moments. In times of adversity, our response to God can have a transformative impact not only in our lives but in the lives of those around us.
- ✓ We fear things we do not understand (Jailer v29)
- ✓ When we encounter God we will have a response (Jailer v30)

