

Acts 16.11-40

Jesus Touches the Whole Town

“The Acts of the Exalted Jesus done in the  
Power of the Holy Spirit through His Apostolic Church”

Open Acts 16 – See Jesus True to HIS WORD, Has BUILT CHURCH  
Beginning in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria > NOW Gentile Cities – Antioch  
NOW His Pierced Hand Knocking on DOOR of EUROPE > PHILIPPI  
150 Mile Sea Voyage > 10 Mile Inland Walk on Via Egnatia to Philippi

NOT Europe YET > Sail across AEGEAN Sea – Diff Province of Rome

The invasion of Europe was not in the mind of Paul, but it was evidently in the mind of the  
Spirit. G. Campbell Morgan

16.9 a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him  
& saying “Come over to Macedonia & help us”

Missionary Providence of God: EUROPE 1<sup>st</sup> GLOBAL Sending BASE

From Europe to AFRICA – ASIA – the AMERICA’s - and OCEANIA

Philippian CHURCH – One of Best – GIVING, LOYAL, JOYFUL

Church grew to MODEL Church, Paul’s FAVORITE? \$ SUPPORTERS\$

God’s PROVIDENCE AND Paul – and Team’s – OBEDIENCE

Team: Paul, Silas, Timothy – and LUKE v. 11 ‘we’ (4 X’s in Acts)

v. 40 ‘They encouraged them and departed’ = LUKE Stayed, Help Church

Gospel IMPACT at 2 Levels > Macro/Micro SOCIAL Order & CITIZEN

1. Reaching the Structures of the City: Where to Go

2. Reaching the Citizens of the City: What to Do

1. Reaching the Structures of the City: Where to Go

a. Religious Centers v. 13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside,  
where we supposed there was a place of prayer

Sabbath – Expect GO to SYNAGOGUE --- Apparently NONE in Philippi

SYNAGOGUE // Mosque = 10 Believing MEN --- No Men Mentioned!

Another GENTILE Sign > NT Letter to Philippians NO OT QUOTES

b. **Financial Centers** v. 16 a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling.

SPIRIT = PYTHON Spirit > Gk Myth Python Snake killed by god Apollo

Temple – Female PYTHONESSES – Ventriloquists for Voice of Apollo

MORE About MONEY than MYSTERY > PROPHECY for PROFIT

TODAY Astrologers /Diviners > Evoke CURIOSITY / Big Business

TRUE? Can Be! Devil CLEVER > TURN from God of Truth & WORD

Cannot Control or Know Future > 1000's yrs Human History/Foolishness

vs. 17,18 She...crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation"... for many days

Frustrating Advertisement > True Message > FURTHERED HER Cause

Stirred up More CLIENTS for Her & More CONSTERNATION for Paul

Paul PROBABLY Knew: DIFFICULT Challenge of Timing

When She is LIBERATED / Ministry in Philippi TERMINATED

Gains CRITICAL MASS in M Movement – Create SAFE PLACE Church

vs. 18, 19 Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers.

Their PROFIT was More IMPORTANT than HER PAIN

Today GLOBAL: Migrants, Sex-Slaves, Weapons Industry TODAY

c. **Political Centers** v. 20 These men are Jews...disturbing our city... advocate customs...not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice." crowd...attacking...tore garments off them...beat them with rods...inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison

Irony! Borders on Humor > Philippi NO Serious Jewish MEN, No Threat

Aroused Underlying PREJUDICES Against Jews >> Keep them OUT!

JUSTICE goes to Highest BIDDER > Money Manipulates the Magistrate

Beaten & IMPRISONED Simply by 'SAY SO' of Movers & SHAKERS

Philippi Named after PHILIP of Macedon, Father of Alexander the Great

NOW was ROMAN COLONY > Filled w/ Retired Roman Army Men

v. 36-39 Jailer to Paul > “magistrates let you go...now go in peace.”

37 Paul: “They have beaten us publicly...Roman citizens... secretly? No! Magistrates were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens. 39 they...apologized to them...took them out & asked them to leave city

FIRST Time in Story of Acts > LEARN Paul is ROMAN CITIZEN!

Unjust Beating of Roman Citizen, Death to Magistrate, City Lose Status

Wants MAGISTRATE Keep HANDS OFF Newly FORMING CHURCH

FEAR of FOUNDER > may Allow Some FREEDOM for FOLLOWERS

Acts > Luke shows Peaceful Church > Law Abiding, Leader Respecting

OPPONENTS of the Gospel GREATEST DISTURBERS of the PEACE

Jesus Sovereign over Whole City // Servants Suffer when He Is Lifted Up

To those Philippian Christians NERVOUS About their CITIZENSHIP...

Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control Philippians 3.20,21

## 2. Reaching the Citizens of the City: What to Do

MICRO View > Change of Society thru Change in CITIZENS

MAN of MACEDONIA – AND a WOMAN?? Named LYDIA?

Luke Highlights work of Jesus in Philippi > 2 People > Woman & Man

PURPLE Seller and PRISON Supervisor

a. Truth for the Heart > MISSION began by DIVINE INVITATION

vs. 9 vision to Paul “Come over to Macedonia and help us” immediately we sought to go to Macedonia - God called us to preach the gospel to them

NOT Food, NOT Shelter, NOT Education, NOT Economic Empowerment

CONCLUDED > GREATEST Help we can OFFER is the WORD of God

v. 13 and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together

WORD of LIFE and LIBERTY v. 18 Paul...to spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her” it came out that very hour.

COURAGEOUS and DIPLOMATIC > Took GREAT RISK to Speak

v. 37 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.”

POINT – Jesus is LORD EVERYWHERE

Corrupt Corridors of Power > Dark Dens of Political Deals

OUR MISSION > Vision for Gospel > BIG and WIDE as WHOLE CITY

Epicenter of Power > PRISON – Place Rivals SILENCED, SUBDUED

Prisoners Praising releases God’s POWER > CONFIDENT in CHAOS

vs. 24,25 put them into the inner prison...fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 m/night Paul/Silas praying & singing hymns to God, prisoners listening

PRISON is BROKEN Down, PRISON Keeper is BAPTIZED

b. Simple but Not Simplistic vs. 29-31 the jailer... “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

HOW did he KNOW about BEING SAVED?

LISTENED to their SINGING Praises to SAVIOR GOD

Every WORD in Answer is Important: BELIEVE – Faith, Total Trust

Refusing to Trust in Yourself – Resting entirely on Someone Else

ON – Onto – Put your Full Trust – Plead for Mercy

LORD JESUS – One to Trust: Lived, Died, Rose, Returning, Authority

“Faith is the empty hand that grasps the Risen Christ” – K. Barth

vs. 17,18 followed Paul...crying out “men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation” ...for many days.

PHILIPPI NOT that BIG > WORD on These Guys was OUT THERE!

God got ATTENTION of HARDENED, OLD, MILITARY MAN

This definition of salvation is short and looks meager; yet it is complete. Christ alone has all the elements of blessedness and eternal life in him. John Calvin

c. 3 Take-Aways from Philippian Church for our Church...

What does church in that Town say to Kalahikiola in Kohala?

1) Diversity – Girl / Victim of Traffickers – Wealthy Businesswoman

Gruff Soldier who brings Fear to Prisoners, Spouses, Kids, HouseWorkers

Church of Jesus – Every Nation, Tribe, People, Language, Political Party

CONTACT Pt: OPEN Door of Interest – Gave FURTHER TEACHING

v34 he rejoiced along w/ entire household that he had believed in God

v. 40 And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them

FAMILY was TAUGHT Who Jesus was and HOW to Follow Him

I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from 1<sup>st</sup> day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of X Jesus Phil 1.3-6

Church in Philippi became Greatest Supporter of Paul's Mission!

2) Hospitality v. 15 after she was baptized & her household as well, "If you judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay"

SIGN GOD Opened Lydia's HEART > She WILLINGLY Opened HOME

v. 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.

UNDERSTANDING of Word of God > MATURITY?? Age??

Tough Jailer becomes Tender TEDDY BEAR: Kindness for CONVICTS

Sprinkle? OUT in MIDDLE of NIGHT to Philippi RIVER? Maybe!

"he washed them and was washed; those he washed from their stripes, himself was washed from his sins"  
Chrysostom

Last 2 nights in Beijing – Apt up 6 flights stairs / No Elevator

Dear Friends – Spiritual Kids – You Must STAY with US!

1<sup>st</sup> Line of Ministry – People IN your Home and NEAR your Home

God put you there to be EMBASSY of Kingdom of Lord Jesus Christ

3) Centrality of Jesus – He ONLY thing they all had in COMMON

All Knew were SINNERS – Knew He was only HOPE of Salvation

v. 14 Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what.. said

God before Paul > Lydia THAT DAY, TIME, MOMENT

The message was Paul's, the saving initiative was God's. John Stott

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. Acts 13.48

## GOD had CLEAR Way to Get ATTENTION of HARDENED JAILER

vs. 26-30 earthquake...foundations of prison shaken...doors were opened everyone's bonds unfastened 27 jailer woke & saw prison doors open, drew sword...about to kill self, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 Paul: "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." 29 jailer... fell down before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Work of God in CITY > Living Jesus Changes RICH & POWERFUL

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13.8

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### Congregational Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we worship you as the builder of your Church. You purchased us with your blood, speak by your Word, and awaken us with your Spirit. From Pentecost, to Philippi, to the islands in the Pacific, you are our Lord and King forever.

We worship you, our God, because you show no partiality. All you made in your image are welcome to have that image renewed by new birth – slave girls, senior executives, and hardened soldiers – all are invited to repent, believe, and receive new life in Christ. We pray that we at Kalahikiola will be a place of welcome to all who seek life in Christ.

We thank you Father God for welcoming us into your household of faith. Help us to open our homes to our friends and neighbors. May we see our places and possessions as tools for your Kingdom, using them to share the love of our King. Open our hearts and open our homes.

Ask the Lord how you might more effectively share His love with others.

"We see that our whole salvation and all it's parts are in Christ. We should therefore take care not to derive the least portion of it from anywhere else. If we seek salvation, we are taught by the very name of Jesus that it is 'of him.' If we seek any other gifts of the Spirit, they will be found in his anointing. If we seek strength, it lies in his dominion; if purity, in his conception; if gentleness, it appears in his birth... If we seek redemption, it lies in his passion; if acquittal, in his condemnation; if remission of the curse, in his cross; if satisfaction, in his sacrifice; if purification, in his blood; if reconciliation, in his descent into hell; if mortification of the flesh, in his tomb; if newness of life, in his resurrection; if immortality, in the same; if inheritance of the Heavenly Kingdom, in his entrance into heaven; if protection, if security, if abundant supply of all blessings, in his Kingdom; if untroubled expectation of judgment, in the power given to him to judge...since rich store of every kind of good abounds in him, let us drink our fill from this fountain, and from no other" (John Calvin, 1536). Amen and Amen

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Acts 16:11-40 <sup>11</sup> So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the<sup>[d]</sup> district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. <sup>13</sup> And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. <sup>14</sup> One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us. <sup>16</sup> As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." <sup>18</sup> And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. <sup>19</sup> But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. <sup>20</sup> And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. <sup>21</sup> They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice." <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. <sup>23</sup> And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. <sup>24</sup> Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. <sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup> And the jailer<sup>[e]</sup> called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. <sup>34</sup> Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God. <sup>35</sup> But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go." <sup>36</sup> 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." <sup>37</sup> 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." <sup>38</sup> The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens. <sup>39</sup> So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. <sup>40</sup> So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.