



PRISON TO PRAISE, SUFFERING TO SALVATION

ACTS 16:16-34 BIBLE STUDY


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CONTEXT



- 6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been **kept by the Holy Spirit** from preaching the word in the province of Asia. 7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the **Spirit of Jesus would not allow them** to. 8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. (Ac 16:6-8, NIV)
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CONTEXT

- 9 And at night, a vision appeared to Paul: a man of Macedonia was standing and calling him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us". 10 Now when he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go out into Macedonia, concluding that God had summoned us to proclaim the Gospel to them. 11 And setting sail from Troas, we traveled directly into Samothrace, [and] the following day into Neapolis [New City], 12 and from there into Philippi (which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia), a [Roman] colony. And we stayed in this city some days. 13 And on the Sabbath, we went outside of the city gate by the river where we assumed there to be a place of prayer. And having sat down, we were speaking to the women who had gathered together. (Ac 16:9-13, AT)
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CONTEXT




- 14 And a woman by the name of Lydia, a purple cloth merchant of the city of Thyatira who was worshipping God, was listening. The Lord had **opened** her heart to heed that which was being said by Paul. 15 And when she was baptized, along with her household, she called out saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come in and stay at my house." And she persuaded us. (Ac 16:14-15, AT)
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ACTS 16:16
PROFITABLE PROPHETESS




- And it came to pass, as we were going into the place of prayer, we were met by a young female slave who had a spirit of divination and who brought in profit to her lords by fortune-telling (Ac 16:16, AT)
 - **Salvation** is found in **no one else**, for there is **no other name** under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”
(Ac 4:12, NIV)
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ACTS 16:17

DEMONIC WITNESS




- While that girl was following Paul and us, she would cry out saying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you [the] way of salvation." (Ac 16:17, AT)
 - "Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I **know** who you are—the **Holy One of God!**" (Lk 4:34, NIV)
 - Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are **the Son of God!**" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the **Messiah**. (Lk 4:41, NIV)
 - When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, **Son of the Most High God?** I beg you, don't torture me!" (Lk 8:28, NIV)
 - We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that **our ministry will not be discredited**. (2 Cor 6:3, NIV)
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ACTS 16:18
OUT OF BONDAGE




- And she did that over many days. But Paul, having become very annoyed, turned around 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 [moment]. (Ac 16:18, AT)
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ACTS 16:19
OUT OF MONEY




- Seeing that the hope of their profit had gone out, her masters seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities (Ac 16:19, AT)
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ACTS 16:20-21 ANTISEMITIC RATIONALE




- and having brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are stirring up trouble in our city: Being Jewish, 21 they are proclaiming customs which are not lawful for us to accept or practice, being Roman." (Ac 16:20-21, AT)
 - 1 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because **Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome**. Paul went to see them (Ac 18:1-2, NIV)
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ACTS 16:22
NO GOOD DEED
UNPUNISHED




- and the crowd joined the attack against them. The magistrates, having had Paul and Silas' clothes torn off, ordered them to be beaten with rods. (Ac 16:22, AT)
 - **“Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd, (Ex 23:2, NIV)**
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ACTS 16:22
NO GOOD DEED
UNPUNISHED




- 24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. (2 Cor 11:24-28, NIV)
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ACTS 16:22
NO GOOD DEED
UNPUNISHED




- 18 “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.
19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. (Jn 15:18-19, NIV)
 - In fact, everyone who wants to live a **godly life** in Christ Jesus will be **persecuted**, (2 Tim 3:12, NIV)
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ACTS 16:23-24
MASTERS' STOCK DROPS
PAUL & SILAS DROPPED IN STOCKS




- 23 After subjecting them to many blows, they threw them into prison and commanded the jailer to guard them securely, 24 who, upon receiving such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks (Ac 16:23-24, AT)
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ACTS 16:25 MIDNIGHT MUSIC AND MADNESS?



- About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them (Ac 16:25, AT)
 - 3 Not only so, but we also **glory in our sufferings**, because we know that **suffering** produces **perseverance**; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. (Rom 5:3-4, NIV)
 - 2 Consider it pure **joy**, my brothers and sisters, whenever you **face trials of many kinds**, 3 because you know that the **testing** of your faith produces **perseverance** (Jas 1:2-3, NIV)
 - 29 For it has been **granted** to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also **to suffer for him**, 30 since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have. (Php 1:29-30, NIV)
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ACTS 16:26 EARTHQUAKE!




- Suddenly, there was a great earthquake, so the foundations of the prison were shaken. Immediately, all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. (Ac 16:26, AT)
- 21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the **LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind** and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, 22 and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. (Ex 14:21-22, NIV)





ACTS 16:27 DEATHLY DECISION





- Having been awakened and seeing that the doors of the prison had been opened, the jailer drew his sword and was about to execute himself, assuming the prisoners had escaped (Ac 16:27, AT)
 - After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and **ordered that they be executed.** (Ac 12:19a, NIV)
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ACTS 16:28
DON'T DO IT!





- But Paul called out in a loud voice saying, "Do not do any harm to yourself! For we are all here." (Ac 16:28, AT)
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ACTS 16:29-30 WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?




- 29 Asking for a torch, he rushed in and trembling, prostrated himself before Paul and Silas. 30 And, having brought them outside, he said, "Lords, what must I do to be saved?" (Ac 16:29-30, AT)
 - On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "**what must I do to inherit eternal life?**" (Lk 10:25, NIV)
 - A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, **what must I do to inherit eternal life?**" (Lk 18:18, NIV)
 - When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, **what shall we do?**" (Ac 2:37, NIV)
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ACTS 16:31
JESUS IS THE WAY
OF SALVATION



- And they said, "Believe upon the Lord Jesus and you will be saved – the same goes for your household. (Ac 16:31, AT)
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ACTS 16:32
YOU GET THE WORD
AND YOU GET THE WORD!




- And they took to him the word of the Lord, along with everyone in his house(hold) (Ac 16:32, AT)





ACTS 16:33
WASHING



- And taking them with him, in that hour of the night, he washed their wounds and he was immediately baptized – the same for everyone in his house (Ac 16:33, AT)
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ACTS 16:34
HOLY HOSPITALITY



- Having led them up into the house, he prepared a meal and rejoiced with all in the house, because he had believed in God (Ac 16:34, AT)

