

Series "God At Work" Book Of Acts
"Power Of His Word"
Acts 16:11-40
Study-30

Acts 16:16-26

The Message of the Gospel is a disturbing Message. **Disturb** - means "*to excite from a state of rest or tranquility, to awaken, to agitate the mind, or to ruffle.*"

Romans 1:16

God has never tried to conceal the conflicting nature of the Gospel Message. Matthew 10:34-38

Thought of our Passage: Gospel Disturbs, Exposes The Lostness Of Humanity, Deception, No-Neutrality, And If Obeyed We Are Turned Right Side Up:

- 1. Verses 11-15 Europe's 1st Converts Of The Gospel**
- 2. Verses 16-24 Opposition To The Gospel**
- 3. Verses 25-40 Dynamic Power Of The Gospel**

1. Verses 11-15 Europe's 1st Converts Of The Gospel:

Acts 16:11 So putting out to sea from Troas, So Context - is the result of Paul receiving a vision from God. **Acts 16:9** Go west!

a certain man Macedonia - represents the *finest of civilized and cultured humanity of Paul's day. Great minds had all the materials that they could want but still lacked,*
Deuteronomy 8:3

Acts 16:10 Neapolis; Means "*new town*", a seaport about 10 miles southeast of Philippi. Total miles: 156 miles across the Aegean Sea.

Acts 16:12 Philippi – (Gateway Between Asia and the West) This is the first place in Europe to hear the Gospel. Known for its many springs.
which is a leading city

and we were staying in this city for some days. This is the city that Paul would write an Epistle about 10 years later to this church that would be formed.

Acts 16:13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside (No Synagogue). Criteria for having a synagogue was having 10 male Jews.

where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; Jews traditionally would worship under open skies next to a river or sea for prayer.

and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.

Acts 16:14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, Here Paul is told not to go to Asia and now he speaks to a woman from Asia.

1st Convert in Europe is from Asia!

a seller of purple fabrics, Purple dye and cloth were luxury items in the Roman world, reserved for royalty, and extremely wealthy. The dye from Thyatira (often a deep reddish-purple) was highly prized, requiring a complex and expensive extraction process from thousands of marine snails.

a worshiper of God, (Gentile who Believed in The God Of Israel). Though she worshipped God, she did not know Him.

(Lydia) was listening; (Her Part Was To Listen) **and the Lord opened her heart** (God's Part, He opened her heart) **to respond to the things spoken by Paul.**

Acts 16:15 she and her household had been baptized, The salvation of Lydia and her servants and possible family members.

Witness of Salvation - Lydia believed and bore witness to her belief in that she was baptized.

Spiritual Hunger and Gratitude: "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us. (Paul, Silas, Timothy, Luke)

(Impact of The Gospel Upon A Woman Was Victorious)

2. Verses 16-24 Opposition To The Gospel:

Acts 16:16 a slave-girl - How sad that Satan loves to hit the young and the weak.

having a spirit of divination met us, - literally "*having a spirit of Pythonia*" The god Apollo was said to have embodied a snake. Called Pythons.

who was bringing her masters much profit by fortunetelling. "*Seek to determine the future.*" Money is what it is all about: making a profit.

Acts 16:17 Note: The Demonized Girl Spoke The Truth: "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to

you the way of salvation." This is true! Demons said the same to Jesus,
Mark 1:24; Matthew 8:29

Acts 16:18 She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, - How long we don't know, why did Paul want her to stop?

Because the demonized girl was speaking some truth, gave some credibility to her message.

Acts 16:19 saw that their hope of profit was gone - This is how you get people's attention, is you affect their pocketbook.

they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities, - slave of Satan has been set free and we want the authorities

Acts 16:20-23 This was illegal to beat a Roman citizen without a trial.

Acts 16:37 There was probably so much haste that he could not even say a word. **Proverbs 18:17**

Acts 16:24 fastened their feet in the stocks. Extremely painful as it would separate and cause severe cramping.

(Impact of The Gospel Upon A Demonized Girl Was Victorious)

3. Verses 25-40 Dynamic Power Of The Gospel:

Acts 16:25 Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, - Later Paul would write to this Church: **Philippians 4:4**

and the prisoners were listening to them; They are always listening!

Acts 16:26 so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; It moved the prison. OK!

and immediately all the doors were opened, - The locked doors opened.

and everyone's chains were unfastened. The chains fell off.

Acts 16:27 he drew his sword and was about to kill himself.

Acts 16:28 "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!" A heart for the lost! Paul cared

Acts 16:29 trembling with fear, he fell down before Paul and Silas, He heard the witness of prayers, the hymns, and praise, now the earthquake.

Acts 16:30 Personal Question: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Here is a man wanting to know what He must do! "The Gospel" The death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus! **John 7:17**

Acts 16:31 Personal Response: Believe – *"to cling to, to rest in, like one would lay his body in a hammock, placing faith in Jesus"* –

you shall be saved, 1 John 5:13

you and your household." This does not mean that because he believed his whole house would also be saved, but through faith.

Acts 16:32-33 And he took them that very hour of the night - It was immediately.

Fruits of Repentance! and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household. Serving, baptized as identifying.

Joy of Salvation! Acts 16:34 and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God

Acts 16:35-37

Christians Are To Be Meek But That Does Not Mean Weak!

Acts 16:38-39 Humbling experience for these men who had been confronted by the Word.

Acts 16:40 when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed. Paul would encourage them, after being **beaten** and imprisoned.

(Impact of The Gospel Upon A Man Was Victorious)

Application:

1. The Impact of The Gospel Upon A Woman and Her Household Was Victorious.
2. The Impact of The Gospel Upon A Demonized Girl Was Victorious.
3. The Impact of The Gospel Upon A Man and His Household Was Victorious.
4. Have I Experienced The Impact of The Gospel In My Life? We Have Witnesses It In Others. What About Me?