

Acts 16

King James Version (KJV)

16 Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek: (Greek- a Hellinist- an Israelite who spoke Greek, but was also a Roman citizen. Timothy's mother was Eunice, and his grandmother was Lois- both Christian women)

²Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium.

³Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek. (They wanted to avoid distraction and trouble from the Jews that were there, so they circumcised him)

⁴And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. Acts-15:28 (God's Word applies to all peoples, including gentiles)

⁵And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily. (Their numbers grew because they were teaching the Word of God, not the doctrines of men. People instinctively know the truth when they hear it)

⁶Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, (God had a plan for them. It was not time to go to Asia)

⁷After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. (God didn't want them to go there. Work by God's plan and you will be successful)

⁸And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. (Paul's home, on the plain of Troy)

⁹And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. (God was directing Paul as to where He wanted him to go)

¹⁰ And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them. (we – Luke has now joined them. He scribed the Books that Paul penned, because Paul's vision never returned totally. Luke is the same medical doctor that wrote the Gospel of Luke)

¹¹ Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis; (Luke has now joined them and will scribe for Paul. Luke would scribe all of Paul's epistles, because Paul still had poor vision)

¹² And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

¹³ And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. (These women were having a prayer meeting by the river)

¹⁴ And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. (She sold purple material. There was a local shellfish which they used to make the purple dye. They exported this purple material all over the Roan Empire. She was a successful business woman. Local men called her a harlot, which she wasn't, out of jealousy of her success in business) (men did the same to the woman who sold flax linen in the Old Testament. They called her a harlot out of jealousy)

¹⁵ And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us. (She offered to put them up in her house while they were there)

¹⁶ And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: (divination = puthon<Greek> - python or serpent in English. She was possessed and a "Fortune teller". She was making a lot of money for her masters)

¹⁷ The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of

salvation. (Satan will build you up to get you off guard, and then knock you down. This is what she intends to do to Paul. Satan works on men's egos)

¹⁸ And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour. (Paul is not falling for it. He called on the name of Jesus Christ to evacuate the evil spirit)

¹⁹ And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, (This was the end of their fortune telling money racket)

²⁰ And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, (They are going to set them up for prosecution. They don't know that Paul is an Israelite by heritage, but also a Roman citizen)

²¹ And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans. (Now they will lie about what happened, because Paul did nothing wrong. Christianity did not conflict with serving Caesar as a Roman. Jesus said – "Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's)

²² And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. (These magistrates probably did that to appease the riotous crowd – just like Pilate did with Jesus)

²³ And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: (It was illegal to beat and imprison Roman citizens without an order or a trial. This is why the Holy Spirit separated Barnabas and Mark from them in the previous chapter. Paul and Silas were both Roman citizens)

²⁴ Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. (First a beating and now imprisonment)

²⁵ And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. (heard = heard and believed - in the manuscripts. So even in prison, the converted people to Christianity)

²⁶ And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. (God freed them. This was no coincidence)

²⁷ And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. (It was a death sentence for a jailer to lose prisoners)

²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. (Paul saved him from committing suicide)

²⁹ Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, (In gratitude)

³⁰ And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? (The freeing of the prisoners was enough to convince the jailer that God had done this)

³¹ And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. (Salvation 101 – believe on Jesus Christ as - God with us – Emmanuel – Our Lord and Savior)

³² And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. (They taught them the Word of God)

³³ And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. (They were baptized that night)

³⁴ And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house. (His whole family became Christians)

³⁵ And when it was day, the magistrates sent the serjeants, saying, Let those men go. (Now they are probably realizing that they beat and imprisoned Roman citizens. This was against Roman law. They knew they were in trouble, so they wanted Paul and Silas to just go away)

³⁶ And the keeper of the prison told this saying to Paul, The magistrates have sent to let you go: now therefore depart, and go in peace.

³⁷ But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out. (Paul is fighting back to protect the Christians that are there. He could have just left, but that would only help himself)

³⁸ And the serjeants told these words unto the magistrates: and they feared, when they heard that they were Romans. (They couldn't afford for this to get back to the Roman governor or they might end up in prison)

³⁹ And they came and besought them, and brought them out, and desired them to depart out of the city.

⁴⁰ And they went out of the prison, and entered into the house of Lydia: and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed.

(It was Roman doctrine that conquered nations could swear allegiance to Caesar and become Roman citizens in good standing. Paul and Silas were both Roman citizens through their fathers and so had the protection of the government like any other Roman citizen)