

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Lesson #15 -Ministry at Philippi

Scripture Reading: Acts 16:11-15

Introduction:

1. There are times where nothing seems to go our way.
2. The word of God succeeds during good times and difficult days.

I. THE IMPRISONMENT -16:16-24

A. THE LESSON

1. The demon-possessed slave girl followed Paul and Silas
 - a. She knew who they were and the message they were proclaiming
 - b. This annoyed Paul after many days
2. Paul cast the demon out in the name of Jesus
 - a. This caused the slave owners to lose their income.
 - b. They brought accusation against Paul and Silas
 - c. They are cast into prison as a result

B. THE APPLICATION

1. People are more inclined to believe a vague lie than to accept an obvious truth!
 - a. The accusations against Paul and Silas were false
 - b. The casting out of the demon could only be done by the power of Christ!
2. All things work for good -Ro 8:28
 - a. Being imprisoned was certainly not pleasant
 - b. Without the experience, the jailer would have remained eternally lost.

II. SALVATION COMES TO THE JAILER -16:25-34

A. THE LESSON

1. Paul and Silas are singing praises and praying at midnight
2. An earthquake releases the bonds of all the prisoners
3. The jailer is about to take his own life
4. He wants to know what he must do to be saved
5. Paul teaches him and his household. They are all baptized

B. THE APPLICATION

1. People have to hear of Jesus before they can believe in Him -Ro 10:17
2. This illustrates the importance of baptism
 - a. The jailer and his family were baptized immediately
 - b. Then they came to the house and ate with one another.

III. PAUL'S REFUSAL -16:35-40

A. THE LESSON

1. The magistrates wanted to release Paul and Silas secretly
2. Paul withstood them
 - a. He let it be known he was an uncondemned Roman citizen beaten unjustly.
 - b. They were fearful when they heard these words.
3. They returned to the home of Lydia

B. THE APPLICATION

1. We do not have to be run over by society
2. We should use political privileges to our advantage.

Conclusion:

1. Not everything in life will go the way we think it ought
2. With our faith firmly grounded in God however, we know things always turn out for the benefit of the kingdom!