

Acts 16: 11-40

As we look at Paul's ministry in Philippi, we will see three things as we go through the story. One; the work is preceded by prayer., two; the work is furthered by personal testimony, third; that Paul is prepared to minister in all circumstances.

Read from verse 6 to get flow

Preceded by prayer

v.11 we- so Luke is now in the picture

v.13 women meeting for prayer- 10 men were required for there to be a Jewish synagogue

- but it was a man who Paul had seen in the vision

v.14 Lydia - seller of purple, therefore rather well off

- worshipper of God- terminology that Jew's used to refer to a Gentile proselytize to the Jewish faith

v.15 she and her household baptized- church begins in her home

v.16 Pythonian spirit- spirit of Apollo, the python, serpent was sacred to him, what she supposedly did was have Apollo speak through her, channeling

- we see the same spirit in operation today, 800 #s, horoscopes, in churches (spirit of fortune telling)

- goal was profit, God has given vision so give money, Oral Roberts saying that God would kill him if he didn't raise a certain amount of money

- **2 Thess. 2:9 through 2 Thess. 2:10** ⁹*The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

- **1 Tim. 4:1** ¹*Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,*

- just as in Acts, there can be powers of darkness professing the faith, how can we judge? Does it match up with Scripture, nature of Father, Jesus, just like last week.

- How does Paul deal with it? Not reasoning or compromise, cast it out, Paul tells Timothy withdraw yourself from them

v.18 cast out the demon or familiar spirit- greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world- spiritual warfare is real, demons are real but we have authority, take it and move on to the important things of the Kingdom- salvation and men's souls

personal testimony

v.20 interesting that they are persecuted as Jews and not Christians

v.22-24 Do you think they have questioned the calling to Macedonia at this point in time?

Prepared to minister in all circumstances

v.25 the verbs are not separated in Greek actually it is praying they sang hymns, the hymns were prayers. Sometimes we think Paul is singing worship type things . Some commentators say that that word used for hymn means Paschal or Passover hymns- lets look at one ***Psalm 116***

- and the prisoners were listening to them-as we go through times of trial, the prisoners are watching and listening to how we handle it

v.26 God moves in a miraculous way- with Peter earlier He used an angel, here He uses an earthquake

v.28 Paul speaks right word at right time- example Raul Ries salvation

v.30 What was he asking, can you answer?

Bishop Taylor Smith, who was chaplain general of the British Army would ask a candidate for chaplaincy one question. “ We will suppose that I am a soldier who has been wounded in battle. I have three minutes to live and I am afraid to die because I do not know Christ. Tell me, how can I be saved and die with assurance that all is well?”

If the applicant began to beat around the bush and talk about the one true church or church ordinances he would reply, “That won’t work. I have only three minutes to live. Tell me what I must do.” If he couldn’t answer, he didn’t become a chaplain.

v.31 Believe and be saved- simple gospel

- you and your household- everyone has free will and can choose to accept or reject the gospel but there seems to be an incredible promise here, forget their side, focus on your responsibility and be encouraged

v.33 probably baptized in the same fountain that he had washed prisoners in

v.35-40 Paul does not refuse to leave to be arrogant but to extend grace, to model it

God wants to do a work

Precede it, bathe it in prayer

Live your life as a testimony an example as He uses you

Learn to be abased and abounded, let God use you in all things