

## Acts 16:16-24

1. Observation and exposition
2. The take-away for us?

### Observation and exposition

1. Read the passage [SLIDES]
2. Observation and exposition
  - a. The time and setting [SLIDES]
  - b. The slave girl with a demon (16-18)
    - i. ESV - “a spirit of divination”
      1. Greek - “πνεῦμα πύθωνα” = spirit of a python
        - a. Bruce quote [SLIDES]
      2. Luke seems to think his readers will already understand what this means.
      3. Did this spirit really know the future? What was it doing?
    - ii. What the spirit was crying out
      1. “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.”
      2. Why did Paul get frustrated with this? Wasn't it free advertising?
        - a. Compare with Jesus in **Luke 4:31-37**
      3. What was the intention of the spirit? Why was it doing this?
      4. Which God or god was it referring to?
        - a. “The Most High God” was a common phrase in the LXX and in secular writing.
        - b. Zeus?
      5. What about salvation? Isn't that a “Christian” idea?
  - c. The reaction of the slave girl's owners, the crowd, the rulers (magistrates), and the jailer (19-24)
    - i. Her owners (19-21)
      1. Apparently two or more men, perhaps in a business partnership?

2. How did they know? Were they following her as she wandered through town doing what she did?
  3. Why Paul and Silas? What about Timothy and Luke?
    - a. Peterson quote [SLIDE]
  4. Why take them to the marketplace?
    - a. Peterson quote [SLIDE]
  5. Was there any truth to their accusations?
  6. What was their real motive for retaliation?
    - a. Their means of income was gone, and now they might have to actually work for a living!
    - b. “Moreover, the men who had infringed these rights were not Roman citizens (or so they thought); they were not even Greeks, like the population around them, but wandering Jews, engaged in propagating some variety of their own perverse superstition.” Bruce, 314 [SLIDE]
    - c. “Officially the Roman citizen may not practise any alien cult that has not received the public sanction of the state, but customarily he might do so as long as his cult did not otherwise offend against the laws and usages of Roman life, i.e. so long as it did not involve political or social crimes.” Stott, 266 [SLIDE]
- ii. The crowd gets involved **(22)**
- iii. The magistrates **(22-23)**
1. Who were the magistrates? What was their role in the city?
    - a. Bruce quote [SLIDE]
  2. Stripped Paul and Silas - public humiliation?
  3. Ordered them to be beaten with rods [SLIDES]
    - a. Demonstration!
  4. Put them in prison, “to keep them safely”
    - a. Why this order? Protect them from the crowd? Or because they realized they had access to supernatural power?
- iv. The jailer **(23-24)**
1. Following orders, he put them in a high security cell
  2. Going further, he put their feet in the stocks [SLIDE]

**The take-away for us**

1. 1 Peter 2:19-23

## **Resources**

1. *The Acts of the Apostles*, F. F. Bruce, 1990
2. *The Book of the Acts*, F. F. Bruce, 1988
3. *The Acts of the Apostles*, David G. Peterson
4. *The Message of Acts*, John Stott
5. *The Acts of the Apostles*, Ben Witherington III
6. *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*, F. F. Bruce