

Facing Problems with Praise Acts 16:16-40

Paul saves a slave-girl from demonic possession. 16-18

- ❖ Recall demons were ever quick to acknowledge Jesus as well. As with Jesus, this demonic endorsement is disliked, cf. Mk. 1:23-26, Lk. 4:35. Why so?
- ❖ Why does Paul put up with the possessed girl's caterwauling for *many days*?

Paul won't save Silas and himself from prison yet praises God. 19-25

- ❖ Here a hypocritical complaint is lodged, blaming Paul & Silas for creating chaos based on their Jewish customs. Actually the owners incite all the confusion.
- ❖ In II Cor. 11:24,25 Paul mentions three such beatings and five whipping by Jews.
- ❖ Praise during problems: 5:41, Hab. 3:17-18, I Pt. 1:6, 4:13, Js. 1:2, Matt. 5:10ff. Consider Paul's letter to the Philippians while in prison, 1:12-18, 2:17,18, 4:4.
- ❖ Question: Why didn't Paul claim his Roman citizenship earlier and save himself and Silas from all this? Note v. 40 and later a protest for protection in 22:24-29.
- ❖ If Paul and Silas can offer this pain-filled praise, how should that affect us?

Paul saves a jailer from certain death. 26-40

- ❖ This quake is clearly the third divinely orchestrated prison break, 5:19, 12:6-8.
- ❖ The jailer assumes all escaped, and knowing the consequences (12:19, 27:42) he nearly commits suicide. Question: Why do they all stay put?
- ❖ The jailer is actually saved twice here! Note the simple and brief answer to what he must do to be saved, 10:43, 15:7-9, Eph. 2:8,9, Jn. 1:12, 3:16.



It's natural to focus on our pain rather than to praise God when we find ourselves facing life's problems. But what can happen when we focus on God instead?