

Four Great Lessons That Will Change Our Lives

Acts 16:16-40

Sunday, March 10, 2019 am

People who learn from the successes and failures of others are destined for a life filled with positive experiences – they avoid many of the mistakes of others – they enjoy many of the successes of others – a wise person looks at the life of someone else and learns by letting the Holy Spirit speak through his or her observations.

This is what we are doing in this message – learning lessons from Paul's and Silas's experiences in Philippi – on Paul's second missionary journey he and Silas were led of God to cross the Aegean into Macedonia to share the message of Jesus.

We can learn four great lessons from their experiences in Philippi – read Acts 16:16-40.

I. The non-Christian World has a Set of Faulty Values – verses 16-24

- a. We read about a young, demon-possessed girl who was being used by some men for their own profit – sounds all too familiar doesn't it – Human Trafficking is very wide-spread today.
 - i. They made money from her psychic powers
 - ii. She was telling the truth – verse 17
 - iii. Paul commanded the evil spirit to come out of her in verse 19.

- b. Her owners became upset over their loss of income
 - i. They didn't value the girl – they only valued how they could profit by using her
 - ii. The non-Christian world uses and abuses humanity in any way possible to their own benefit
- c. Why is our world in such a mess?
 - i. The route of sin is always degrading and destructive
 - ii. Our society is more pleasure oriented than people oriented
- d. The Church believes in improving people – not abusing people

II. **God Delivers His People from Bondage – verses 25-26**

- a. This is a powerful lesson for us to learn
 - i. Paul and Silas were jailed unjustly
 - ii. Their attitude is amazing
- b. Faithful people find satisfaction in being found worthy to suffer for Jesus.
 - i. Remember Acts 5:41 – Peter and the apostles were overjoyed
 - ii. In this passage Paul and Silas discover the same joy
 - iii. Verse 25 tells us that at midnight they are praying and singing hymns – I've often wondered that song they were singing – maybe The Solid Rock!
- c. The lesson is clear – God is in charge and we have no reason to fear

-Have all the verses ready to put on the screen

- i. If the Church stays focused on the grace and power of God – the outside world will be more interested in coming to know Christ.
- ii. We are not poor – weak – mistreated worms in the dust
- iii. We are children of the King of the universe *I Peter 2:9*
- iv. **Satan cannot put us where the grace of God cannot reach us!!!!**

III. **The Road to Really Living is Found in Jesus Christ – Acts 16:27-31**

- a. The jailer saw something he wanted
- b. Christians demonstrate a joy regardless of life's situation that is attractive to the outside world
- c. Christians manifest joy along with a healthy state of emotional well-being.

IV. **God Is a Great Compensator – Acts 16:32-34**

- a. Because of their attitudes, Paul and Silas were richly rewarded by God
- b. The greatest reward of all was realizing the conversion of the jailer and his family
- c. God has a wonderful way of compensating His people for any problem we endure while serving Him.

God help us today to learn from these four great lessons from Philippi – they will change our lives forever!