



A GRAND ADVENTURE

PARTNERSHIP: ACTS 16:11-40

Read and meditate on Acts 16:11-40

Partnership. Why are partnerships, good ones, advantageous? Describe God's partnership with Paul? What are the benefits of accepting God's offer of partnership?

A woman after God's heart (Acts 16:11-15). What do we learn about Lydia in v. 14-15? Why do you think God led Paul to her riverside prayer gathering? How did God participate in her accepting the message of Jesus? What role did Paul play? (v. 14; **John 6:44**). Check out **Proverbs 31:10-31**. What qualities do you see there?

Under the influence (Acts 16:16-24). What a bizarre situation...a young girl possessed by a demon following Paul and Silas around. Describe this young woman's bondage (i.e. spiritual, financial, etc). How does God free her from this bondage? What role did Paul play? Discuss spiritual warfare using **Ephesians 6:12** and **Luke 10:19-20**.

Profits lost. How did the young girl's owners respond to her emancipation? How did they treat Paul and Silas? In what way would you say she, and they, were bound financially? Does financial bondage stand between people and joy in Christ today? Do people place financial achievement above spiritual freedom? Why? Do you?

Jail break (Acts 16:25-40). So Paul and Silas were beaten severely and put in wooden stocks in the most secure part of the prison in Philippi. What was their frame of mind based upon v. 25? What impact do you think their inexplicable happiness had on those around them? What impact does your joy have on those around you? Why was the Philippian jailor intending to kill himself? Why is crisis almost always a part of conversion? Can you describe a crisis that brought you to God? What was Paul's message (v. 31; **Romans 10:9**; **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**)? How did this experience change the jailor?

Partnership with God changes everything.