



Acts: The Birth of the Church in the World - Week 5: The Gospel Invades Europe

Acts 16: 11-40

Discussion Questions for August 9th, 2026

1. Pastor Shaen mentioned that he and Katie both love podcasts, but for different reasons. What is your favorite podcast? What would you recommend to someone looking for a podcast that strengthens their faith?
2. **Main Idea: The Gospel Changes All Kinds of People In All Kinds of Places.** Of the three people highlighted (wealthy Lydia, slave girl, blue collar jailer), which do you identify with the most? In what ways are you similar to that person?
3. Which of the people highlighted is the most interesting to you? Why? What does that person's story teach us about how God works in different kinds of lives?
4. **Point #1: Lydia's New Wealth.** Lydia seemed to have it all, including worshipping God, so wouldn't it have been natural for her to listen carefully to Paul? Why did Luke record that, "The Lord opened her heart to pay attention"? Was it closed before that? Why might that be the case?
5. What actions does Lydia take right after believing? What about the jailer? What can this tell us about the role of hospitality in the Christian life?
6. **Point #2: The Slave Girl's New Master.** The "spirit" inside the slave girl was demonic in nature. Why do you think the spirit cried out the truth ("These men are servants of the Most High God") rather than trying to slander Paul and Silas?
7. **Point #3: The Jailer's New Life.** What were Paul and Silas doing at night in jail? If you were in that situation, what worship song would you sing?

8. In verse 37 Paul makes a big deal about his Roman citizenship. Why do you think he did this, especially since it was already after the beatings and imprisonment? (Possible answers could be: 1. Highlight the injustice to the community 2. Make the magistrates think twice before they persecute members of the church 3. Ensure that the community sees the magistrates giving the apology and escort, to preserve the reputation of the fledgling church.)?