

DIVINE COMBAT!

IT HAPPENED “ON THE WAY TO PRAY!” Acts 16:16-17

- **An Accustomed Place of Prayer. v.16a**
 - *Society generally considers it an innocuous and innocent activity!
 - *Hell would deem it DANGEROUS!
- **Accosting the enemy! vs. 16b**
 - *Demonic “Slavery.” - INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE! -- Caters to the Greed of her Owners!
 - *SHE WAS A MONEY MAKER for her “OWNERS!” - their lucrative revenue source!
 - cf. **I Timothy 6:6-10** Always the obsessive quest for **MORE!**
 - PROBLEM:** Position and Possessions = POWER!
 - SOLUTION:** Rx **I Timothy 6:17-19** -
“Do your givin’ when you’re livin’ -- Then you’re knowin’ where it’s goin’ !
- **A Demonic “Irritant!” vs. 17**
 - *Possessed (Under the Control of) an “alien spirit.”
DEMONS = Fallen Angels.
 - *Demon spirits can “know some truth”, **but make it an “irritant.” vs. 17**
 - Ken’s experience with a “loud-mouth” Union Boss at North Star Steel Company.
 - Paul – **“BECAME GREATLY ANNOYED!”**
 - *ENOUGH ALREADY! vs. 18a

THE EXORCISM. Acts 16:18

- **Note WHO** Paul addresses – **NOT** the slave girl, **but** the demonic “spirit.”
- **An Authoritative Command:** “In **THE NAME of JESUS CHRIST!**”
- **Exorcism:** = “To COME OUT!” ... [**Creature Obeys Creator, and it came out!**]

THE GREEDY GOT MAD – MONEY DRIVEN MOB

RULE REIGNS! Acts 16:19-24

- Anarchy in a City “**Supposedly**” Governed by Roman Law?
 - Compare this to “Anarchy” in USA! ... (or parts of Europe)—**UNGOVERNABLE!**
 - Maybe “exorcised evil spirits” are roaming loose, and creating lawlessness & violence.
 - “Rulers ... Magistrates” Really they’re COWARDS who didn’t know what to do! **vs. 19b-20a**
 - ANTI-SEMITISM!** “Jews” ... “Advocating [their] Customs!” **vs. 20b-21**
- The Fruit of Anarchy = **Mob Rule** (or “*Might makes Right!*”)
- **Attacked – Beaten – Thrown in Jail! vss. 22-24**
 - NOTE:** Without benefit of “Due Process” as it should have been in a **Roman Colony!**

JAIL HOUSE REVIVAL! Acts 16-25-34

- A “Witness of Worship.” **vs. 25** cf. **Philippians 4:4-7**
- A Divine Intervention – Earthquake! **vs. 26**
 - *Divine in its **TIMING**, not in its mere fact! (Earthquakes common here.)
 - *Doors Opened - - Bonds Unfastened!
 - *Attempted Suicide ... **“STOP WE’RE ALL HERE!” vss. 27-28**
 - *Plea for SALVATION! --**Physical** (from death penalty) -
Spiritual (from Hell) **vss. 28-30**
 - ***The Ultimate Answer!** **vss. 31-32**
 - *Changed Life -- **“Washed their Wounds.” vs. 33a**
 - *Was Baptized + His Household. **vs. 33b**
 - *A Banquet of Rejoicing! **vs. 34**