

D-Day at Philippi

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Acts 16:11-40.

B. The book of Acts outlines how normal Christianity should be in every age.

C. The obscure decision of Paul to go to Europe was one of the most important decisions of his day in hindsight.

II. How to change a nation, city or community.

A. Paul always started with the same activity—proclaiming the story of Jesus Christ.

B. Paul began in the most obvious and natural places and the most available people—usually it was the synagogue unless there was not enough Jews to form a synagogue as at Philippi.

C. Paul and his disciples expected God to do something.

1. There are unquestionably people that God has prepared.

2. We can ignore the hostile reaction of others.

3. The gospel first entered Europe through a women's business meeting.

D. God enters a city through a spectacular deliverance.

1. The devil uses alliance or attack to hinder the gospel.

2. A girl possessed by a demon was declaring the mission of Paul, but this was not good because if men are brought on this basis they always come with a wrong motive (self-interest) and the truth proclaimed originally would quickly be mixed with very serious error.

3. The girl also indirectly raises up violent opposition backed by a spiritual stronghold. (II Corinthians 11)

E. Paul took confidence despite persecution.

1. The enemy was backed against the wall—when the enemy resorts to violence, he is panicking.

2. God in His resurrection power was at work in the situation, and this power cannot be stopped.

3. Suffering of all kinds is necessary to Christian maturity.

F. Paul took to “body life.”

1. Paul acknowledged his Roman status in order to raise the entire status of the church in the community.
2. Paul admonishes the community to rejoice.
3. The minute that believers came together, they began sharing the life of Jesus Christ with each other.

Application questions:

1. Why is suffering a necessary element of Christian maturity and place change?

2. Explain why “body life” is important to change in a place.

3. What are you expecting God to do in your church today that you could not do without Him?
For what will you trust Him?
