

## May 19: Prayerfully Study Acts 16:16-24

"One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.' She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour.

"But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe.' The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks."

## Resolve | Even Through Obstacles/Setbacks

# May 19

1 | Paul and Silas, along their way to pray, were met by someone described as a fortune teller (v. 16). Sunday, May 19/today is Reveal Sunday when we share the pledge results of our REACH campaign, as well as the ordination/installation of our new officers, who will launch the implementation of the campaign? These officers will be the spiritual leaders of SHPC who help discern God's will. They will also be good stewards of the resources the Lord has provided us. How might you pray for this process and be a supportive member?

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2 | Paul and his companions were labeled as ones who were doing something for God (vv. 17-18). As we at SHPC begin our REACH campaign, we may be labeled as a church that raised money to enhance our own facility. How could we faithfully and gently respond, explaining our goal to Reach, Restore, and Connect?

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3 | How did the demon-possessed girl damage Paul's ministry (v. 18)? What could damage our progress with the changes to the church facility and the outreach we are participating in? In our society today, what are some ways people are in bondage? How can the way people are labeled cause challenges for them?

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4 | The slave girl's owners benefited financially from her ability (v. 19), so what was their reaction when they lost this source of income? They were oppressing her for their gain. Who, conversely, supported you for no apparent gain? How did that change your outlook on life? With the Spirit's help, how might you pass that blessing forward?

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5 | The REACH campaign theme this week is about resolve, even when facing obstacles and/or setbacks. What setbacks did Paul and Silas face after several allegations were made against them (vv. 20-24)? In your personal journey of faith, how have overcome setbacks? What role did others play in helping you through? How might you help keep our SHPC momentum high as we proceed through potential setbacks?

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6 | The Restoration House helps restore single mothers and their children back to God's good intent for their lives. Through supportive transitional housing, ally teams, family advocacy, and youth development, TRH walks alongside low-income single-parent families, helping them break harmful cycles and regain hope and a future. At its core, TRH believes that God intended for us to live in community. How might we live in community with TRH? What will it take to be long-term partners in more ways than financial giving? What excites you most about their Olive Tree Early Learning Academy?

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