

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series*

Acts of the Apostles

### **"Blessings Abound Through Endurance of Pain and Suffering"**

Acts 16:19-34 NKJV

#### **Majority Rules Wrongly**

<sup>19</sup> But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged *them* into the marketplace to the authorities. <sup>20</sup> And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; <sup>21</sup> and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." <sup>22</sup> Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded *them* to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup> Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

#### **Supernatural Earthquake and Endurance**

<sup>25</sup> But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. <sup>27</sup> And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. <sup>28</sup> But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

<sup>29</sup> Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

#### **Blessings Abound**

<sup>31</sup> So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his *family* were baptized. <sup>34</sup> Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Think of the *multitude* in vv. 22.
  - Who were these people and how did they become involved with this situation?
  - Did they take up an offence for someone else? How is this dangerous and what impact did it make toward Paul and Silas, and the magistrates?
  - Share a situation where you were in the position of the "multitude", Paul and Silas, or the magistrates? How were others affected?
  - What is the best way to deal with this type of situation if you find yourself in the *multitude*? Identify some bible verses.
2. Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God at midnight. How is this helpful?
  - How do you overcome pain and suffering?
3. What can you learn from Paul and Silas when you are going through a trial?
4. What were indications that this was a supernatural phenomenon? What compelled Paul and Silas to stay instead of escape? How does this show Christ's love?
5. What action compelled the jailer to approach Paul and Silas? Have you considered how your actions are drawing others to Christ?
6. How can vv.31 be taken out of context?
7. Although Paul does not mention repentance to the jailer, what actions showed repentance?
8. How does enduring pain and suffering increase your faith?