



ACTS 16:16-40



Overview

In this series called Marketplace Missionaries we're following the Apostle Paul on his second missionary journey. Last week we saw how God opens and closes doors for Paul because God is the One who directs mission. This week, in the story of a slave girl and a jailer, we see two different kinds of people who find freedom in Jesus.



Getting to Know You

When have you experienced a clash of values in your nine-to-five work world? How did you feel and what did you do?



Digging Deeper

Read Acts 16:16-19. Continuing the story, Paul and Silas are in Philippi when they meet a slave girl.

1. What is her vocation and who benefits from her work?
2. What clash of values do you see here in the passage? Compare what God is interested in versus what these business "owners" in Philippi (v. 16) are concerned about?¹
3. How does following Christ make you different to those you work with?

Steve explained that despite being beaten and put in jail illegally Paul was not a trouble maker (Acts 15:20-40). The local citizen's may have been threatened by the different values the gospel brings, but Paul was innocent of their accusations. And God was changing lives!

4. Why do you think Paul speaks up about his Roman citizenship? How would the newly formed church benefit from this action?

¹ Note: Luke portrays her as being inspired by the Pythian god, Apollo as she had a spirit of divination

5. How does preoccupation with other's opinions of you, or excuses (like *"I wouldn't want to rock the boat"*; *"my bosses wouldn't listen"*; *"It won't change"* . . .) obscure your interest in speaking up for injustices at work?



Taking it Home

How about your nine-to five? In wanting to live with freedom in your place of influence, think about these areas:

- How do people misinterpret or misunderstand Christianity?
- When do you see money valued more than people?
- How can I help others who have no chance of defending themselves?



Prayer

Pray for justice in our work places and for Christians to work honestly and maintain integrity in all they do. Pray that when others see our values they will pause and think about why we do things differently.