

Recap of 3/6/22 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 16:16-24

1, The power of God over Satan and his realm is seen in Paul's casting out the demon by which a slave girl predicted the future. Even though what she was saying was true, she was distracting from the gospel message.

- "Paul did not want either the gospel or the name of God to be 'promoted' by one of Satan's slaves, so he cast out the demon. After all, Satan may speak the truth one minute and the next minute tell a lie; and the unsaved would not know the difference." (Wiersbe)

2. If you seek revelation from any other source other than the written Word of God—you open yourself up to Satanic deception. Why didn't Paul want this slave girls' endorsement of his ministry? Because it's likely here next utterance would be Satan's lie and he didn't want to give credence to here utterances.

3. The reality of Satan and demons, taught in the Scriptures is acknowledged by C.S. Lewis in **The Screwtape Letters**:

- "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally please by both errors, ..."

-Demons are fallen angels who joined Satan in rebellion against God. They are spirit beings. They are not omnipresent: they can be in only one place at a time. They are not omniscient: they are highly intelligent, and due to their long existence and intimate experience with human beings in every possible circumstance they are able to predict our responses in a given situation. They promote a system of doctrine which promotes (in contradiction of Biblical truth) salvation by works (1 Timothy 4:1-3). They deny the deity of Christ (1 John 2:22-23) They deny the humanity of Christ (1 John 4:2-3). They seek to destroy the minds and bodies of humans and promote moral impurity (1 Cor. 7:5). They promote delusion among the nations. (Daniel 10;13,20; Revelation 16:14,16)

4. The gospel triumphs in spite of Satanic opposition. Satan is actively at work opposing the gospel.

5. The girl now released from the demon was of no use to her owners (their source of income gone) who dragged Paul and Silas before the authorities and stirred up the people so that Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison.

6. It's important to note that Paul did not set out to harm their pocketbooks; that was incidental to his primary goal of preaching the Gospel, seeing women and men released from the bondage to sin and become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. Do we in the church elevate the power of the purse over the power of the gospel to the detriment of the gospel?