



How To Respond When Wronged?

Acts 16:16-34

Paul's Journeys

Rome

Philippi

Thess
Athens

Corinth

Ephesus

Mediterranean Sea

Caesarea

Israel

Jerusalem

Egypt

— 2nd Missionary Journey



Acts 16

16 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." 18 She kept this up for many days.



I. THE MIRACLE THAT CAUSED THE PROBLEM

*18She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her. 19When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they **seized** Paul and Silas and **dragged** them into the marketplace to face the authorities.*



II. THE PERSONAL ABUSES

1. Unlawfully Arrested.

19 When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities.



II. THE PERSONAL ABUSES

2. Falsely Accused

20They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar 21by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."



II. THE PERSONAL ABUSES

3. Unjustly Convicted

*22The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be **stripped and beaten.***



II. THE PERSONAL ABUSES

4. Brutally Punished

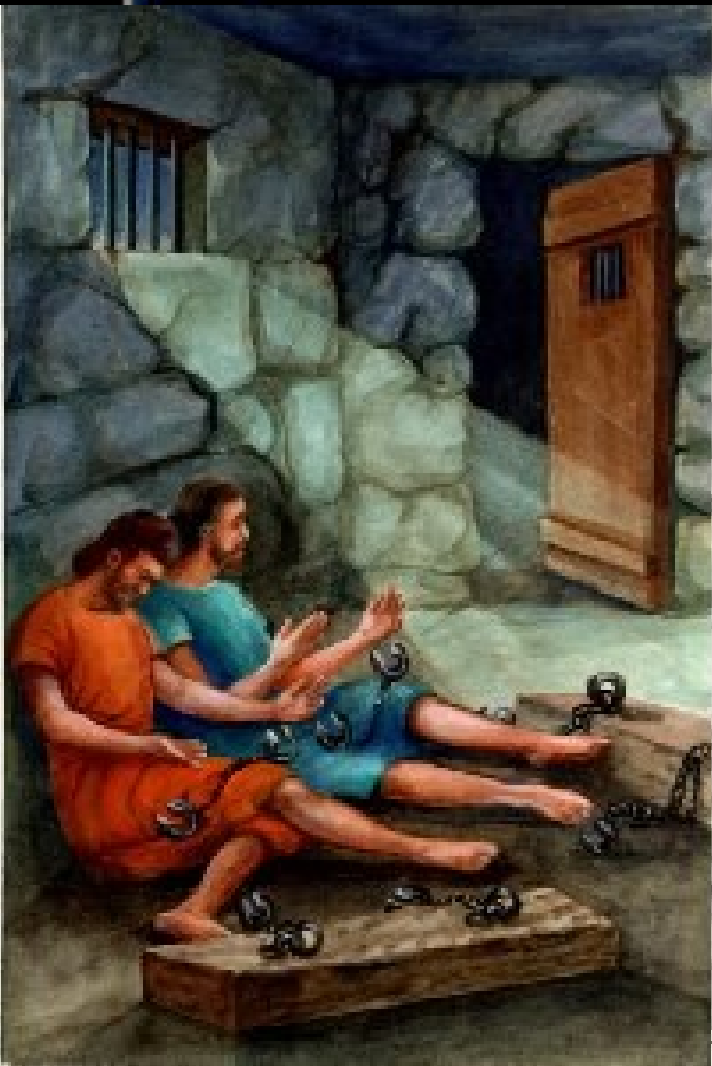
*23After they had been **severely flogged**, they were **thrown** into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the **inner cell** and fastened their feet in the **stocks**.*

III. THE CHOSEN RESPONSE



25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

III. THE CHOSEN RESPONSE



*Why are you downcast, O my
soul?*

Why so disturbed within me?

*Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God*

*(Psalm
42:5).*



IV. THE MIRACULOUS OUTCOME

1. A Captive Audience.

25About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.



IV. THE MIRACULOUS OUTCOME

2. A Miraculous Deliverance

26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.



IV. THE MIRACULOUS OUTCOME

2. A Miraculous Deliverance

Remember, you are in protective custody.

13No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it (1 Cor. 10:13).

IV. THE MIRACULOUS OUTCOME



3. An Exciting Conversion and Baptism

27The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. 28But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

IV. THE MIRACULOUS OUTCOME



3. An Exciting Conversion and Baptism

29The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. 30He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

31They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

IV. THE MIRACULOUS OUTCOME

3. An Exciting Conversion and Baptism

32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.





A Lesson for the Journey Ahead

When falsely accused, wrongfully convicted, brutally abused, you choose your response. **Choose** to sing praises and offer prayers. **Choose** not to respond with the old nature.

A glowing doorway is shown on the left side of the slide, with a bright light emanating from it and a beam of light shining out onto the floor. The light has a starburst effect at the doorway.

A Lesson for the Journey Ahead

"God permits what he hates
to
accomplish what he loves."

As quoted by Joni Erickson Tada