

7/24/19

NT#29

Acts 16-21 The Lord Had Called Us For to Preach the Gospel

GT

recap → Acts 15: 13-21 The deciding scripture in preaching to the Gentiles is Amos 9: 11-12
Edom ↔ nations (remnant of men (Adam)) TX
Edom ↗

Paul then goes through:

Phillipi: conversion of Lydian with her household

contrast the Lord opening her heart w/ Paul's conversion

why did Paul cast out the spirit?

v. 16 spirit of "divination" ^(serpent) Pythos → Pythian priestesses at Delphi made this some claim. The word for "ventriloquist" was also used to describe those possessed of this spirit, & she likely displayed strange voices, bodily movements, yelling, etc. Associated with Delphic oracles. - Her possession must have been real

- Riot -
- * deprives owners of their living by preaching & casting out devils
- * raises a mob against them
- * imprisoned/beaten

miraculously freed. the jailer came trembling

v. 30 what must I do to be saved?

* Why did he ask this, and what did he mean?

- the earthquake was over
- the prisoners were accounted for
- he must have had some other fear

- o but why?
- o perhaps he'd heard the story of the Pythianess
- o perhaps he knew the miraculous nature of the earthquake (loosened chains & opened doors) and the miraculous way his prisoners had been saved
- o prepared by God to believe, baptized that very night

modern idolatry vs. Roman idolatry

worship of Gods meant behaving as they would like:

follow war to worship Mars	
sex	Venus
money	Mammon

Though we don't name the deities, when we justify/glorify these acts, we are engaging in idolatry every bit as harmful and forbidden as that of old

Thessalonica: conversion of some of the Jews, a multitude of devout Greeks, and many chief women (women of influence, connected with families of rank) - in Macedonia, women were honored

- Riot -
- * mob raised against them (Ch. 17 v. 6)
- * claim: that they preach Jesus will supplant Caesar (v. 7)
- this offense carries the penalty of crucifixion

Berea: many converts as in Thessalonica

- Riot -
- * people stirred up by their enemies who followed them

Athens → consider separately (no mention of a synagogue)
"tell or hear some new thing" - Quentin L. Cook 'choose wisely' Oct 2014 Conf.

Corinth: (ch 18)

Aquila & Priscilla

lived with them and worked for them as a tentmaker (Acts 20:34)

See Mos. 2:14 → tells of his working with his own hands

2 Cor. 11:9 (was chargeable to no one, not burdensome)

v. 4 persuaded Jews & Greeks

v. 6 they opposed themselves

- Riot - Crispus, chief ruler of synagogue & his house believed

* took Paul to Roman ruler - who didn't care about the theological differences between Jews & Christians

v. 18 shaved his head, for he had a vow

- could have been a Nazenite vow of short duration, or some other vow

- may have been out of gratitude

- may have been out of a desire to show the Jews he still respected their customs

v. 24-28 Not about Paul at all, but about Apollos, a convert from Egypt

v. 26 "the way"

Ephesus:

v. 5 rebaptized - it was clear they weren't baptized by the proper authority, since they had not received - nor was mention made (as John the B. would have) that the Holy Ghost must follow

v. 9 spoke evil of "that way"

v. 12 Paul's articles have a power to perform miracles

v. 13-17 attempted counterfeiters learn the hard way

v. 19 "curious arts" = sorcery

burn their books → the ultimate statement of commitment
→ burying weapons

v. 23 no small stir about "that way"

23-41 Riot by silversmiths led by Demetrius

Ch. 20 Troas:

v. 7 first day of the week → Sunday (Sat. night) to break bread
heals Etychus from the dead

v. 16 desires to be in Jerusalem for Pentecost (but spent Passover in Phillippi).
(Acts 18:21 unknown feast → Pentecost?)

v. 35 → more blessed to give than to receive → not found in Gospels

Ch. 21 Paul's journey to Jerusalem:

v. 10-11 Agabus uses Paul's belt as a type of bondage (clothing symbolism common in OT & BoM)

Paul almost makes it through his 7-day purification period, but the mob recognizes him, and would have killed him but for the intervention of the Romans

Luke Shows Paul is like Christ:

How: (painted mobs as the bad guys)

- suffered the same persecutions
- caused by the same people (Jews)
- who appealed to the same authority (Rome)
- with the same offense (none/innocent)

Why:

to inoculate the Greek world against further claims made against Christian missionaries

as a result:

he pioneered the idea of religious liberty

- Christianity eventually overcame the world

- also in Ephesus & Thessalonica

- the same as he did later in 21:24

Oct 10, 1978 "Meeting the Challenges of Today" Delivered at BYU

Religious Liberty
Neal A. Maxwell