

## Acts 16:13-40

### 3 Hearts One Savior

**In our passage today we are going to see how 3 very different people in the city of Philippi are exposed to the gospel and meet Jesus**

13 And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. 14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." 18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

19 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.

20 And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; 21 and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." 22 Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

**When other Christians find out that I am a pastor or that I work at a church - they will often say.**

**A)It must be nice to work around Christians all day.**

**B)And I always respond in this way. The hardest part about my job is working around Christians all day.**

1)Don't get me wrong - I love the people I work with they are awesome

**C)But I really miss being able to daily rub shoulders with and engage with people who don't know Jesus-**

**1)I miss being involved in those conversations -**

**It wasn't always that way:**

**A)Before getting into the ministry I worked in the grocery store industry and the Hotel industry.**

**B)And at first my approach to my work and my faith was always being on the defensive -**

**1)sort of kept to myself**

**C)Because I didn't want to get sucked into the ways of the world -**

**1)I didn't want to compromise or stumble in my faith**

**But that all changed one day -after my approach really offended a guy who I was becoming friends with**

**A)His name was Blake - and I was hoping to share Jesus with -**

**B)But one day My self-righteous attitude and approach turned him off to Jesus**

**That is when I began to think about what it really meant to be salt and light -**

**A)Especially the analogy of Salt - Salt has to touch things to have an affect**

**B)That meant I was going to have to go on the offensive -**

**1)make friends build relationships look for common ground with the people I worked with**

**C)When I started really getting to know the people I worked with - engaging in their lives**

**1)That is when my work environment really became fun - and exciting**

**2)Everyday was sort of a new adventure.**

**D)I was able to share my faith with many of my co-workers and saw a few of them come to the Lord.**

**Now if you are a non-believer here today hearing me talk about this-**

A)you might be thinking - that is what annoys me about people like you

B)Why do you always feel like you need to convert me?

C)I will not lie - that is true: We do want to see you come to Jesus

This is why? We think that Jesus is so amazing! We want you to know him!

A)Listen: If we really believe that Jesus is God in Human flesh - who left heaven came to earth -

B)So He could die on a cross To pay the price for the sins of all mankind -

1)and after being dead for 3 days he rose from the dead

C)proving that he is who he claimed to be - The way the truth... only way to God.

D)That he is The only way to escape eternal death and experience eternal life

1)How could we not tell you?

It would be like us having the cure to cancer - and you have cancer and we didn't share it with you.

A)Think about how upset you would be if you knew we had the cure and didn't share it with you.

B)So of course we want you to meet Jesus - He is amazing!!! - He has transformed our lives -

C)that is what he does

1)See 3 great examples of that in our text today

Conversion #1 Lydia

A)Recall last week - We saw how Paul was praying for direction for the Lord - where to go next on his missionary journey

B)God gives him direction through a vision - a Man from Macedonia saying please come and help us

C)Paul and his crew set sail for Macedonia and end up in the city of Philippi -

1)Southeast section of Macedonia

D)Paul is looking for a man - but first he encounters a woman named Lydia

If there was not a synagogue in a city - 10 Jewish men could form a synagogue

A)If one wasn't formed the Jews would meet by the river or by the sea for prayer.

B)So Paul and Silas head down to the river - women's prayer group us happening V.13 and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there

C)That is when they met this woman named Lydia -V.14

Who was Lydia? She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God.

A)She is a wealthy businesswoman; She is from Thyatira the center of the purple dye business.

B)Purple dyed goods were the in thing in those days - very expensive

1)So Lydia is doing well for herself

C)think, "Classy - well put together, Driving a Mercedes Benz E 350

1)She is a brilliant, driven, well-known, well respected."

She is also religious - She is seeker - she is not a Christ follower -

A)But she is interested in spiritual things - She worshipped God

B)Most likely a convert to Judaism

C)Paul engages her in an spiritual conversation - and notice V.14 God opens her heart to heed the things spoken .... Paul

D)Heed is an interesting word - it is used to describe an addiction to something or a craving of something

E)So we could say: As Lydia is hearing Paul talk about Jesus - her heart is craving for more.

Her eyes are opened - her heart is opened

A)She believes what Paul is telling her about Jesus

15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be

faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” So she persuaded us.

B)Love about New believers - Crave the word - can't get enough!

1)Don't go we want to hear more !!!

C)Conversion #1 Lydia - A lady who everything going for her but she still had a void in her heart - 1)does that describe you today?

Conversion #2

16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

A)Now This girl is the opposite of Lydia.

B)Lydia was a lady that was good at making a profit in her business/

1)this girl was used for profit by others.

C)Scholars say she is probably in her mid-teens.

She has a demon and she's a slave, which means she's a spiritual and economic captive.

A)Paul and his crew cross paths with her on the way to the prayer meeting -

B)she is out there soliciting fortunes - NO THANKS

C)They don't engage her - But she ends up following them

17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.”

A)V. 18 tells us that she did this for many days - following them

B)Notice what it says next: **But Paul, greatly annoyed,**

1)I love that... that lets me know the Bible is not made up.

C)It doesn't say, “And Paul, full of great compassion,”

1)or “Paul, tearfully and tenderly, stroked her hair, and said, ‘Daughter of Eve,’”

D)Paul was annoyed - not just annoyed but greatly annoyed!!!

1)Ever been greatly annoyed ?

The question is why was he greatly annoyed? -

What was wrong with this picture? -

A)This is like free advertising right?

B)Jesus reacted the same way - when Demons would yell out that he was the son of God -

1)Commanded them to be silent - why?

C)Why did Paul and Jesus react that way: Simple really:

1)They didn't want the gospel message being promoted by an Agent of Satan. It **clouds the message**

D)Celebrities who are living the opposite of godly lives - “I just want to thank God.”

1)Muddles the message

So Paul, greatly annoyed turned and said to the spirit, notice it says that Paul turned and said to the spirit.

A)Paul addressed the demon, not the woman. And he said - “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour.

B)Note: Demons are real - people still get possessed by Demons

C)But In Jesus We have authority over Demonic beings - why ?

Colossians 2: “<sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in the cross.”

D)Rulers and authorities - Principalities and powers in the NKJV is speaking about Demonic beings -

1)Rulers of the underworld - Servants of Satan

<sup>12</sup>For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places* Ephesians 6:12

As followers of Jesus But we are not fighting for victory over demonic forces but from a position of victory -

A)Because Jesus already defeated them - Jesus disarmed them

B)More than conquerors ..... who loves us.

C)Christians have power over Demons on Jesus name!!!

D)So Paul deals with the Demon head on - in the power of Jesus

E)She was delivered - Completely - Radical transformation

1)Notice what happens next

19 But when her masters saw it they rejoiced and turned to Jesus too? NO!

19 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.

A)These men had no joy in seeing this woman set free by the power of Jesus

B)She was irrelevant to them - they didn't care about her - she was just a means of making money

1)And now Their hope profit was gone

C)No different today in someone getting saved & getting out of a gang; or drug trafficking; or a sex worker

1)Their revenue stream is gone - so her handlers are ticked off

D)So these men seek to take action against Paul and Silas

20 And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; 21 and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe."

Note that phrase: These men trouble our city.

A)That is a similar accusation that people make about us -Those people at Calvary Vista are troubling the city

B)Because we teach the Bible here - they know that the Bible contradicts their lifestyle choices

C)Those people at CV they trouble our city!

And it doesn't matter to them that every Wednesday morning there are 200-250 cars that come through our parking lot for food

A)Those 250 cars Represent families in need - who get boxes of food loaded into their trunk by faithful servants from this church

B)Food distribution ministry we are in partnership with

C)Nor does it matter to them that every Friday there are 20-30 Homeless people who show up here to get a shower

1)Get fresh clothes - get food - sometimes a shave and hair cut - In our partnership with Humanity Showers

All that matters to them is that we teach God's word here and are encouraging people to live according to God's word.

A)They know this book doesn't line up with their life style choices

B)"Men do not reject the Bible, because the Bible contradicts itself, men reject the Bible because it contradicts them."

C)That is what is happening here in Philippi when this young girl gets delivered and saved -

1)Their means of making money is affected - they want Paul and Silas punished and ran out of town.

D)So they want Paul and Silas dealt with and put out of their city!

Conversion #3 A hard hearted Roman Solider

22 Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. (All for helping this Demon possessed girl get set free.) 4 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Here we meet person number three: the Philippian jailor. Who is he?

A) Jailors were often highly decorated Roman

soldiers who, as a retirement gift, were given jails to run

**B)He is Older. Hardened. Part of the ruling class. I'm sure cynical.**

**C)He puts Paul and Silas Into the "inner" prison.**

1)Inner prisons were usually the lowest part of the building reserved for the worst offenders

**D)They were cold Dark - damp - disgusting. All the fecal matter ran down into it.**

**E)So that is where Paul and Silas are placed.**

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

**Who are these guys - why are they singing to God?**

**A)Who sings praise songs after they have been beaten and thrown in prison**

**B) Men who know that Jesus is still on the throne**

- Men who know that Jesus loves them
- Men who know that they are not forsaken
- Men who know that Jesus has a plan

**C)So Paul and Silas are worshipping the Lord in the midnight hour**

26 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 You thought Elvis wrote Jailhouse rock- really Paul /Silas. 27 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.

**A)In those days, if you lost a prisoner you paid with your own life - big motivation to not lose them**

28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, Serves you right you Roman Pig - NO! He yells out, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

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

**A)The greatest question for all mankind...What must I do to be saved?**

**B)Saved is always in contrast with "lost". - So salvation is the opposite of being lost,**

1)it's being found; - it's the opposite of being in danger, it's being safe.

**C)What must I do to be saved - is the greatest question and person can ask - the answer ?**

31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

**D)How beautiful is that? - You believe in Jesus - you embrace what he did for you -**

**1)Leaving heaven - earth - cross - Resurrection - Life!**

**E)It is that simple. Go from being lost to be saved - From being in Danger to being RESCUED**

**NOW NOTE: There is a time gap between verse 31-32 The Jailer takes Paul and Silas home to meet his family.**

32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34 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.

**This is a Radical transformation that takes place in the life of this cold hard hearted cynical Roman Solider**

**A)His heart is softened - he believes in Jesus as does his whole family**

**B)Such a beautiful illustration of the transforming work of the gospel**

**So This chapter contains STORIES OF 3 PEOPLE who get saved.**

**A)Now, I am sure there were lots of people who trusted Christ during Paul's time in Philippi.**

**B)Why include the stories of these three?**

1)(That's always a question you should be asking when you read the Bible. Why include this?)

**C)Why are these three stories included? 2 reasons**



#1 To show us something about the gospel.  
#2 To show us the different ways that people are reached -

D)Let's consider both of these things in our remaining time today

What do these stories tell us about the Gospel?

A)Simply that the gospel is for everybody.

B)Three COMPLETELY different kinds of people: a rich, religious woman; a Demon possessed slave girl;

C)And a hard hearted cynical Roman Jailor

There is no "type" for becoming a Christian.

A)Ever heard someone say - I am just not the Christian type -

B)That is the beauty of the body of Christ - there isn't a type - Many testimonies

C)Our church - there are those who grew up in the church - saved young - your testimony -

1)Jesus saved you from the Pit

Others saved out of the pit - Drug dealers - drug users - Gang bangers

A)People who have done time in Prison - sex addicts - alcoholics

B)People whose God was money - highly successful - empty -

1)Saved out the pit of bondage to greed and materialism

C)And there are those who were like Lydia - good people religious but still lost because you didn't know Jesus

D)All of that and everything in between - that is the beauty of the Body of Christ

So this story reminds us that the Gospel is for everyone

#2 Gives us insight into how Jesus reaches people

A)Take Lydia - she thinks of herself as a religious person - how do you engage her?

B)Paul engages her with a spiritual discussion

C)There are lots of people in our community who fit the profile of Lydia

1)Sometimes they have a Christian background, sometimes not...

D)Sometimes they are just spiritual people from other religions; sometimes they are active in church, a lot of times they are not.

1)But for whatever reason they are open to having spiritual conversations.

What is the Best way to reach them?

A)Expose them to God's word. How do you do that? Invite them to church - Good place to start

B)Invite them to lunch and ask them this question: Do you have any spiritual beliefs?

1)Start a conversation on spiritual beliefs

C)That might lead to reading a book together -

D)Key point you want to make with them - Christianity is not about religion it is a relationship!

I love that phrase, in v.14 **"the Lord opened her heart"**

A)That reminds us that Salvation is a work of God - He opened her heart!

B)God is the one who does the convincing; Moves on our hearts

C)Been said that to be effective in evangelism you only have to believe two things

1)#1 salvation belongs to God;

#2 faith comes by hearing.

Believing "salvation belongs to God" takes the pressure off of you;

A)But believing that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God motivates us to get the word out

B)We all can do that

C)Some of the most effective one on one evangelist I know are shy people but - very real and loving

1)Not extroverts or great communicators - but they love people - share Jesus

**So how do you reach a person like Lydia - a seeker - You engage them in spiritual conversation.**

**A)But what about the person who is like this demon possessed slave girl?**

**B)how do you engage people who are bound by darkness.**

**1)Very Carefully -**

**C)Note again Paul didn't engage her right away**

**1)He waited several days -**

**D)It is hard to talk to someone who is not in their right mind -**

**1)someone who is under the influence of something  
Someone who is bound by darkness -**

**E)You really have to prayerfully and carefully pick your spots!!**

**When Paul finally did engage - notice that he confronts the darkness head on in the power of Jesus**

**A)I have found that is the best way to deal with these types of people**

**B)Have to be straight forward - not the kind of person you can reason with**

**C)They are so blinded that it is sometimes hard for them to process -**

**D)Best thing you can do it point out the darkness and let them know that they can be delivered**

**E)But God is the only one who can open their eyes and open their hearts**

**1)And set them free from their bondage**

**What about the hard hearted cynical person like the Philippian Jailer what is the best way to engage them**

**A)The answer is to just live before them - let your life speak -**

**B)let them see you in all seasons good and bad - great and hard**

**C)What impacted this guy - Paul and Silas are singing praise songs in prison and midnight**

**D)When the doors opened - they didn't leave - they could have bailed but they didn't**

**E)They way they were living and reacted to their situation impacted him**

**In a recent survey by Barna - 84% of the Americans surveyed said they know at least one person who claims to be a committed Christian**

**However the same survey - only 15% of those who were polled felt that the lifestyle of those who claimed to be committed Christians Was slightly different from non-believers -**

**84% knew a Christian - but only 15% noticed a difference in the way they lived their lives**

**Brennan Manning who said: "The single greatest cause of atheism in the world today is that Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door and deny him with their lifestyles! That is what the unbelieving world, simply finds unbelievable."**

**Cynical unbelievers watch us guys. They pay attention to how we are living**

**A)And they pay attention the most when we are going through tough times**

**B)When you get the raise at work - or the promotion at work - and you are praising God -**

**1)they aren't drawn by that/ they are annoyed**

**C)they believe raises and promotions come from being a great employee not because of God -**

**1) That doesn't compute with them -**

**D)So when you say - Praise God I got a raise or I got the promotion - that just annoys them**

**They are not drawn in your times of blessings -**

**A)They are drawn when they see you in a situation where you could easily cut a corner and you don't**

**B)This jailer was blown away that Paul and Silas didn't bail**

**C)They are drawn to you when they see you in a tragedy - a difficult time and you are still praising God**

1) Like Paul and Silas singing at midnight in the inner prison

**When you lose your Job - let's see if he/she praises God now -**

**A) When you get diagnosed with cancer**

**B) They can see the fear that lets them know you are human - that is mixed with peace - speaks to them -**

**C) That is what grabs the attention of the skeptic and the cynic -**

1) They see Christians going through real things - see our human side - fear

**D) But they are also able to see a Peace / that there is something holding us up**

1) And holding us together. - Impacts them

**E) The best way to impact a skeptic is to live before them**

**So First this passage teaches us that the gospel is for everyone.**

**A) 2<sup>nd</sup> it teaches us how to reach them**

**B) Seekers like Lydia engage them in Spiritual discussion**

**C) People bound in darkness like the slave girl - carefully and prayerfully confront the darkness head on**

**D) The hard hearted Cynical - Live before them**

**Finish this up**

35 And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "Let those men go."

36 So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace."

37 But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out."

**Paul is using his rights as a Roman citizen here**

38 And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. 39 Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked

them to depart from the city. 40 So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

**A) Because Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they had recognized civil rights,**

1) which were violated by the Philippian magistrates.

**B) Upon learning this, the magistrates were filled with fear,**

1) Because it was a grave offense to treat Roman citizens as Paul and Silas had been treated.

**C) Good reminder for us to know our rights and use them -**

**Example: One of the things that liberals like to use against Christians - keep us from living our faith -**

**A) They will quote - Separation between Church and state -**

**B) Prayer and Bible studies out of school - out of the work place. -**

**C) Here is the reality: The amendment in our Constitution about the separation between church and state WAS NOT put there to**

1) **To keep the church out of state affairs -**

**D) to keep the Bible and prayer out of Public schools - and that sort of logic**

**E) The whole purpose of the separation between the church and the state**

1) **was to keep the state out of church affairs**

**Our founding fathers didn't want the state interfering with the mission and purpose of the church**

**A) Important to know our rights and use those rights when necessary**

**As we close today I want to throw out two questions**

**A) First is what do you need to do to be lost? Answer nothing**

**B) All lost - all sinners - missed the mark - God's standard -**

1) **Sin separates us from God**



**C)All kinds of sinners - Some who know it - I am surprised the building has collapsed on me -**

**1)that is how bad I am**

**Others are moral sinners - they don't know it as much - trying to do the good person thing -**

**A)Good out weighs my bad - ok with God**

**B)Listen that is Santa Claus - not the God who wants to be your Father**

**B)Never be good enough**

**C)Religious sinners - Trust in Religion**

**1)Religion vs Relationship**

**What do you have to do to be lost - Nothing.**

**A)What do you have to do to be saved?**

**B)Believe in Jesus -**

**1)He was good enough**

**C)What he did was enough**

**Died and rose -**

**What do you have to do to be lost? Nothing**

**What do you need to do to be saved?**

**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved**

**“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Romans 10:9**