

New Mount Moriah AMEC

Bible Study, 21 July 2026

Acts 16:16-24 (NKJV)

Introduction: The last time we met, we discussed Paul fulfilling his purpose through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Tonight, we will discuss the power of the Holy Spirit over evil spirits and the danger of allowing the unholy to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Lesson Outline:

- Vs. 16 Spirit of Divination
- Vs. 17-18 Right Word, Wrong Vessel
- Vs. 19-21 It's All About the Money
- Vs. 22-24 The Cost of Proclaiming the Gospel

Lesson Review:

Vs. 16 **Spirit of Divination:** Spirit of Divination in Greek reads a spirit of python. It refers to the spirit associated with the oracle of Delphi in Greek religion, where people sought supernatural knowledge through pagan divination (*foretelling*).

- The Greek god Apollo was said to have slain the great serpent or dragon Python and took both his gifts of prediction and his name. The people would have thought the young girl was the voice of the oracles (*prophecies*) of the Greek god Apollo.

Life Application: Take a moment and reflect on the signs you see along the highway and in yards advertising Palm Readers and Fortune Tells. There was also a time when folks would refer to their Zodiac sign for daily guidance (*It is said Nancy Reagan was one of those people*).

Supporting Scriptures: Deuteronomy 18:9-12 2 Kings 23:24 Galatians 5:19-21

Vs. 17-18 **Right Word, Wrong Vessel:** Based upon our text, demons can speak truth. What the young girl was saying about Paul and Silas was true. They were servants of the **Most High God** (*El Elyon means God Most High, the Supreme God, Absolute Sovereign God (Genesis 14:18-20)*), and they were preaching **The Way of Salvation** (*Faith in Jesus and Jesus alone*). Jesus is not a way; He is the Way (*John 14:6*).

Critical Thinking: Please read Genesis 3:1-4 and provide an opinion on why Paul and Silas would not allow the young lady to continue her statements about them?

Insight: Please note, Paul spoke to the spirit that possessed the young lady, not her. She was no more than a vessel being used by her master to make money. The power of the name of Jesus is revealed when the demon came out of the young lady.

Supporting Scriptures: Matthew 7:15

Vs. 19-21 **It's All About the Money:** The young lady's well-being was never a concern for her masters. They were only concerned about the money (*their hope of profit was gone*). We live in a world where the well-being of our young people is of no concern; it's all about money.

- Lawsuits are being filed against social media platforms because parents feel the industry is putting profit over the well-being of their children.

Life Application: Could you name a few things that Christianity does not promote and if embraced, would affect the profit of the masters of this world?

Supporting Scriptures: Hebrews 13:5 1 Timothy 6:10 Proverbs 15:27

- Please note, Paul and Silas were accused of troubling the city, teaching unlawful customs. They were not accused of casting out demons (*I wonder why*).
- **John MacArthur Study Bible states**, "It was true that Roman citizens were not to engage in any foreign religion that had not been sanctioned by the state."

Vs. 22-24 **The Cost of Proclaiming the Gospel:** Paul and Silas' clothes were torn off for preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and casting out a demon.

Supporting Scriptures: John 15:20 2 Timothy 3:12