

WASP: Disclaimer

Paul and Silas Imprisoned

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. 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." 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. 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.

And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.

Acts 16:16-23

Reasonable Expectations

Deliverance and inner-healing ministry must be entered with sober understanding and expectation of its effect in the life of a minister. The passage above presents a time when Paul and his companions encountered the demonic and took authority over its possession of a young girl. Instead of earning favor and respect in the community, Paul and Silas were met with opposition and persecution. The people accused Paul and Silas of bringing "trouble" to the city and even teaching what was "unlawful"¹. The text is clear, not everyone agreed with the actions of these men of God.

Unfortunately, we can and should expect similar responses, as we exert our authority over the forces of Satan. Many, including fellow believers, will not understand nor appreciate what they may perceive as "trouble" to their life/world or "unlawful" teaching. Those who engage in spiritual warfare, and even more so deliverance and inner-healing, must be prepared to face opposition from not only the forces of darkness, but from those who the enemy has deceived in keeping ignorant and blind to the work of God.

Though it is a powerful and life changing ministry, deliverance and inner-healing is not for the faint of heart. It should be entered by those who are willing to follow the leading of Holy Spirit with full conviction and faith in His Word, Authority, Spirit, and Power, while demonstrating grace and patience to those who do not yet understand our ministry. "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"².

¹ Acts 16:21-22

² Ephesians 6:12