

S.G. Study Guide: *To the End of the Earth.* Acts 16:16-40

Opening Thought: Discuss the difference of salvation experience between Lydia and the slave girl. Discuss the contrast of liberation by Christ and bondage by the devil, and how we see this in our culture today.

1. A child, a continual cry, and a command. (Acts 16:16-18)

- In our passage, the girl is a demon-possessed fortuneteller. What is God's opinion of such practice? (Duet. 18:10-12 and Galatians 5:19-21) Apply this practice in modernity and discuss.
- The child made a continual cry. What was it and what damage could it bring to the gospel?
- What was Paul's command to the girl? Discuss the unique power of apostolic authority. (Mark 3:15; 2 Cor. 12:12)
- Discuss the parallel between Acts 16:18 and Phil. 2:9-11.

2. The comeback, the crowd, the custodial, another cry, a cleansing and the church. (Acts 16:19-40)

- How do the slave owners "comeback" on Paul's healing? What does this teach us about the gospel and this world?
- How did the crowd respond? How do the lost use man's law to uphold injustice and yet strive to crush morality?
- Paul and Silas were thrown into prison? Why not Luke and Timothy? Why so much caution with the custodial?
- How do Paul and Silas behave in prison? What can we learn from this?
- The second cry in Acts 16 comes from Paul. Contrast it to the first cry. What does Paul teach us about the lifestyle of a bondservant of God? (Romans 12:18-21)
- Amidst persecution and hate we see a powerful cleansing. What was it, who is cleansed, and what actions accompanied it?
- No matter the persecution, we ultimately see the church prevail under God's power and providence. What did this look like? Apply it to our lives today, discuss.