



Title | Serpents & Doves
Series | The Church That Changed the World
Text | Acts 16:16-24
By | Bob Kerrey
Date | September 11, 2021

Sermon Notes

Acts 16:16 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. **17** She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” **18** And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour. **19** But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. **20** And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, “These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. **21** They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice.” **22** The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. **23** And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. **24** Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. *ESV*

Big Idea:

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

Matthew 10:16 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read Matthew 10:16. What does Jesus mean when he tells his followers that he is sending them out as sheep among wolves? What does Jesus mean when he says, “be wise as serpents and innocent as doves”?

Tuesday:

Read Acts 16:16-18. What do you think of the apparent endorsement of the demon-possessed slave girl? Is it good or bad?

Wednesday:

Read Acts 16:18. Why was Paul so upset at the demon-possessed slave girl? Why did he cast out the demon? Why did he wait for “many days” before casting it out? How was he being wise as serpents and innocent as doves?

Thursday:

Read Acts 16:19-24. In what ways were the owners shrewd in bringing charges against Paul and Silas? Why didn't Paul and Silas try to defend themselves against the charges? Do you think Paul and Silas were being wise as serpents and innocent as doves? Why or why not?

Friday:

Read James 1:5 and Acts 16:25. How can you acquire the wisdom you need to face opposition? In what ways can you be wise as serpents and innocent as doves?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, please give me the wisdom I need to represent you well when faced with opposition, that I may be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Amen.