

## **PAUL IN JAIL IN PHILIPPI**

January 5, 2020 Acts 16:11-40

In Troas Paul had a vision: **“Come over to Macedonia and help us (Acts 16:9).”** Paul arrived in Greece, in Europe with Silas and Luke with him. The first stop was Philippi, a Roman colony. **Then the unlikely story of three unusual converts: Lydia (an Asian), a slave girl (a Greek) and a Roman jailer. The gospel is for everyone.**

### **1. The gospel overcomes racial barriers**

- Lydia was an Asian woman from Thyatira (modern day Turkey).
- The slave girl was a Greek from that area.
- The jailer was a Roman because these kind of jobs went to ex-Roman soldiers.

### **2. The gospel overcomes economic barriers**

- Lydia was a successful business woman who owned a home in Philippi.
- The slave girl was demon possessed and had no money. She was trafficked.
- The Roman was middle class.

### **3. The gospel overcomes spiritual barriers**

- Lydia was a seeker, a “worshiper of God,” who was open. Acts 16:13-15
- The slave girl was tormented with the spirit of python but knew about God.
- The Roman jailer was indifferent and a real hard case.

### **4. How can you find joy in jail?**

- What if your rights are violated? Can you still have joy?
- Joy is not found in wealth (Lydia) or health (Paul & Silas were beaten).
- You will not find joy in any spirit guide (the slave girl).
- True joy is found in knowing, serving and praising Jesus.

