

Persecution!

Acts 16:16-40

If there is no battle, there can be no victory.

A. Exorcism. 16:16-18

1. Sometimes serving Jesus brings us into head-on conflict with Satan.
2. Only Jesus has the power to overpower Satan.

B. Retaliation. 16:19-21

1. Unbelievers may put up with Christians until they start losing money.
2. When unbelievers take offense at Christians, they often do not bother to tell the truth.

C. Trial and Punishment. 16:22-24

1. The world is not concerned if Christians are treated unfairly.
2. Don't expect to be fairly treated by unbelievers.

D. Divine Intervention. 16:25-28

1. When you are most unfairly treated, praise God the most!
2. When you can honestly praise God amid hardship, look for God to intervene.
3. Never dictate to God how or when He must intervene. That is His business, not yours.

E. Salvation. 16:29-34

1. Hardships for Christians creates opportunities for salvation for non-Christians.
2. Salvation is simple. Don't make it complicated.
3. The focus is on King Jesus. Will you trust Him or not?

4. Salvation has always been by grace through faith. Eph. 2:8-10
5. The sequence
 - a. I must tell the good news about King Jesus.
 - b. The person must believe in King Jesus.
 - c. God must transform the person's heart.

F. Vindication. 16:35-40

1. Sometimes unbelievers who have mistreated us will be forced to admit they were unfair.
2. But that won't undo the pain we have suffered for Jesus.
3. Never give up on serving King Jesus – go on to the next opportunity.

G. Summing It Up. Acts 16:16-40

1. When you serve Jesus you are fighting a spiritual war.
2. Sooner or later, your enemy will try to "nail" you.
3. When he lashes out at you, it will hurt.
4. Sometimes the Law will work in your favor; sometimes it won't.
5. Don't stop praising God, even in jail.
6. Look for God to save people, even in jail.
7. Never quit serving King Jesus!

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