

A Miracle and National Rights

7/11/20

- * Last week's sermon -- International and National Worldview
 - * Last week -- I didn't finish my presentation -- Continue today
 - * Today -- "A Miracle and National Rights"
 - * Today -- A History Lesson from Acts 16
-

*** The Introduction**

Acts 15:40 Paul chose Silas
Acts 16:1-3 Paul wanted Timothy to join them
 4-5 through the cities -- churches strengthened
 6 forbidden by Holy Spirit to preach in Asia
 7 the Spirit did not permit them -- Bithynia
 8 went to Troas
 9-10 Paul had a vision -- to go to Macedonia
 11-12 ended up in Philippi
 13 Sabbath day -- met with the women
 14-15 Lydia and her household -- baptized

*** The trial**

Acts 16:16 there was a slave girl who had the spirit of divination
-- who brought her masters much profit by her divination
 17 she followed -- proclaiming things about them
 18 Paul cast out the spirit
 19 her masters became upset when they saw that their
hope of profit was gone -- dragged them before the magistrates
 20-21 the masters accused them before the magistrates
 22 the multitude rose up against them -- and the
 magistrates commanded that Paul and Silas
 be beaten with rods
 23-24 after beating them, Paul and Silas were thrown
 into prison -- the keeper of the jail was
 instructed to keep them securely -- so he
 put them into the inner prison & fastened
 their feet in the stocks

*** The miracle**

Acts 16:25 midnight -- praying and singing hymns
 26 a great earthquake opened the prison doors --
 and loosened the prisoners' chains
 27 the keeper of the prison assumed the prisoners had
 escaped -- and he was going to kill himself
 28 Paul comforted the keeper of the prison
 29-34 Paul baptized the keeper of the prison & family

*** Paul's national rights**

Acts 16:35 in the morning, the magistrates sent officers to the
 keeper of the prison with the message to
 release Paul and Silas

36 the keeper of the prison relayed the message to Paul
 and Silas

37 when Paul heard the message, Paul said --

* They have been beaten us openly (innocent
 Romans citizens)

* They have thrown us into prison

* Now, the magistrates want us to go away
 secretly (quietly)

* No indeed -- Let them come here themselves
 and let us out

38 and when the officers told these words to the
 magistrates, they were afraid when they
 heard that Paul and Silas were Roman
 citizens

39 the magistrates came and pleaded with them -- and
 brought them out -- and asked them to leave
 the city

40 Paul and Silas went to Lydia's house and saw the
 brethren -- they were encouraged -- (who
 was encouraged? -- probably all the
 brethren)

* A later episode

Acts 22:1-21 Paul was giving his testimony

22 they said -- "Away with such a fellow from the earth,
 for he is not fit to live"

23 they tore off their clothes and threw dust into the
 air

24 commander ordered that Paul be brought back to the
 barracks & be examined by scourging --
 wanting to learn why they said such things
 against him

25 Paul -- is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is
 a Roman, an innocent Roman?

26 centurion told the commander -- be careful what you
 do, because this man is a Roman [with
 rights]

27 commander asked -- are you a Roman?

28 commander -- so am I; I obtained my citizenship with
 a large sum of money

Paul said -- I was born a citizen

29 those who were about to examine him withdrew from him
 -- the commander was also afraid after he
 discovered that he had bound up a Roman
 citizen