

# Serving God by Proclaiming Jesus

## Biblical Examples

### Foundation

#### Bible passage : Acts 16:16-17

In Unit 3 we saw how the disciples went and told people about Jesus. As people believed they turned away from idols to worship and serve God. That is what happened when Paul and his team arrived in the city of Philippi and began preaching. Many were very annoyed by the message because they saw it as a threat to their money. The silversmiths, who made money making statues, were particularly upset.

But we also see the strange incident of a slave girl with a “spirit of divination”. We are told that she made money for her owners by telling fortunes. Having a spirit sounds a bit scary, and pictures often suggest so, but Luke doesn’t say she was suffering. That is unlike the incidents Luke records in his gospel (4.33 & 8.28) where people were suffering. In all three situation the people were set free from the spirits who are just creatures, and Jesus has power over them.

“These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation”  
Acts 16.17

What interest us is what the spirit said through the girl about Paul and his team. We see in the gospels times when evil spirit see the spiritual reality behind things which are not seen by people. The same thing seems to have happened with the slave girl.

*Paul and the Slave Girl.  
Oil painting  
c. 1860,  
outside the  
Basilica of  
St. Paul in  
Rome.*



Luke, who was part of Paul’s team in Philippi, records first hand what happened when they encountered the girl:

“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. She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.”

The spirit knew what was going on. To many in Philippi these men had a strange message which was causing trouble and upsetting their religion and their income. But they were doing what Jesus had sent them to do, to tell people about Him, and in so doing, they were serving God, the Most High God, as the spirit said.

Of course they were also serving people, by telling them how to be saved from power of sin, death and the judgment of God. This was the most most important thing they could ever do to serve others.



**Telling people about Jesus is a way about serving God, and serving them by telling them how to be saved.**