

## **John 3:16-17 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.



















# IN THE EARLIEST CHURCH

Sermon Notes Online @



YouVersion™



IN THE  
EARLIEST  
CHURCH



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God.



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. <sup>15</sup> When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home.



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

“If you consider me a believer in the Lord,”  
she said, “come and stay at my house.”  
And she persuaded us.



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future.



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting,



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

“These men are servants of the Most High God,  
who are telling you the way to be saved.”

<sup>18</sup> She kept this up for many days.



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit,



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

“In the name of Jesus Christ  
I command you to come out of her!”  
At that moment the spirit left her.



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities.



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

<sup>20</sup> They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar <sup>21</sup> by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods.



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

<sup>23</sup> After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

<sup>24</sup> When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

<sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

<sup>27</sup> The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped.



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

<sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted,  
“Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

<sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas.

<sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

<sup>31</sup> They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”

<sup>32</sup> Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

<sup>33</sup> At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized.



## **Acts 16:13-34 (NIV)**

<sup>34</sup> The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.



IN THE  
EARLIEST  
CHURCH



# Lydia:

- Not originally from Philippi



# Lydia:

- Not originally from Philippi
- Entrepreneur



# Lydia:

- Not originally from Philippi
- Entrepreneur
- Cultured



# Lydia:

- Not originally from Philippi
- Entrepreneur
- Cultured
- Wealthy



# Lydia:

- Not originally from Philippi
- Entrepreneur
- Cultured
- Wealthy
- “God-fearer”



IN THE  
EARLIEST  
CHURCH



## **Acts 16:14b**

The Lord opened her heart  
to respond to Paul's message.



IN THE  
EARLIEST  
CHURCH



# Female Slave:

- Young



# Female Slave:

- Young
- Demon-possessed



# Female Slave:

- Young
- Demon-possessed
- Clairvoyant



IN THE  
EARLIEST  
CHURCH



## Matthew 12:43-45

<sup>43</sup> “When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it.



## Matthew 12:43-45

<sup>44</sup> Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.'  
When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied,  
swept clean and put in order.



## **Matthew 12:43-45**

<sup>45</sup> Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there.



## **Matthew 12:43-45**

And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.”



IN THE  
EARLIEST  
CHURCH



# Jailer:

- Probably retired military



# Jailer:

- Probably retired military
- Brutal



# Jailer:

- Probably retired military
- Brutal
- Spiritually indifferent



IN THE  
EARLIEST  
CHURCH



## **Acts 16:30**

He then brought them out and asked,  
“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”



## **Acts 16:31**

They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”



IN THE  
EARLIEST  
CHURCH



<b>Converts</b>	<b>Ethnically</b>	<b>Economically</b>	<b>Spiritually</b>	<b>Event</b>
Lydia	Asian	wealthy	a God fearer	public discourse
Slave girl	native Greek	poor	tormented by evil spirits	dramatic exorcism
jailer	Roman	blue-collar	practical and indifferent	powerful miracles and example



IN THE  
EARLIEST  
CHURCH



## Philippians 1:3-6

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you.

<sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,




## Philippians 1:3-6

<sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.



IN THE  
EARLIEST  
CHURCH





# IN THE EARLIEST CHURCH

**3 Unexpected Encounters, 3 Transformed Lives**