

## Acts 16:18-20

\*\*\* NOTE: If you are reading this guide and have not listened to the corresponding sermon on Acts 16:16-24 preached on Sunday, November 6, 2011, at Vintage21 Church, please visit [www.vintage21.com](http://www.vintage21.com) to download this sermon for free prior to using this guide as a resource. Thank you. \*\*\*

**Passage Guide**

Jesus defeated Satan's kingdom forever on the cross. He was victorious over Satan's forty days of temptation in the wilderness revealing that His Kingdom was far more powerful than the kingdom of darkness (Matthew 4). The Israelites failed in the desert and succumbed to Satan's temptations. Jesus would not fail. His victory over Satan in the wilderness was just the precursor to His ultimate victory on the cross.

Jesus constantly encountered Satan and demonic forces. The early church as we read in Acts 16 had similar experiences. One reoccurring theme is found for the encounters between the kingdom of darkness and Jesus' followers; the Kingdom of God is always victorious. The kingdom of darkness has no power over Jesus or His followers. Jesus came to a world that needed liberation from the darkness. He confronted demons, brought joy to the oppressed and defeated Satan once and for all. We rejoice knowing Jesus is far more powerful than anything in this world and trusting He will return to ultimately destroy the kingdom of darkness forever (Isaiah 35).

As followers we know the Holy Spirit who dwells in us is more powerful than any darkness we encounter in our life. The kingdom of darkness is still at work today, but we rest knowing that He who is in us is far more powerful than he who is in the world. Jesus' victory should embolden us to make much of Him knowing the enemy has no power as we strive to join God in building His church in our city. Nothing or no one is more powerful than Jesus, who has been given all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18). We have victory over any demonic power through Jesus' triumphant defeat of Satan.

Unfortunately, believers who struggle with demonic situations rarely discuss it due to a lack of conversation in our churches today. Take this time to encourage one another by making much of Jesus in your discussion time, showcasing Jesus' victory over the kingdom of darkness. Encourage one another to seek counsel in community if anyone is experiencing any activity related to this week's discussion. This is not something to be dealt with alone. It must be stressed that in this and in all things, we should encourage one another to **remain focused on Jesus**, who has complete and total victory over Satan and all demons. In Him we have our only hope, and that hope is secure, imperishable, and complete (1 Peter 1). If you are feeling ill-equipped to help someone in this regard, or if you yourself are struggling with what you perceive to be demonic influence, please reach out for help. God provides for us richly through one another by the power of His Holy Spirit. Acts 16:18-20 is a great opportunity to discuss how Jesus defeated Satan once and for all.

**Discussion Questions**

- How did Jesus defeat the kingdom of darkness? How does His victory impact the way we live our everyday lives?
- James 4:6-7 says, "'God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Resisting the devil begins with humble submission to God.

- What does it look like for you to humbly submit to God?
- What are some tactics the kingdom of darkness uses to remove our affections for Christ? How can we make much of Jesus in these situations?
  - How does Jesus' victory over Satan embolden us to build His church in our city?

**Prayer**

Take time to thank Jesus for His victory over the kingdom of darkness and for freeing us from the bondage of sin.

Per James 4:6-7, ask the Lord to humble you and to show you what loving submission to God looks like.

Ask God to reveal where there is demonic influence.

Ask God what it looks like to practically resist the devil per

Pray for those who have not yet seen Jesus' victory over the kingdom of darkness, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the work of Jesus on their behalf.

Ask God to help us confess our sins to one another, pray, and receive His healing, rejoicing in His healing work in our lives.