

Discerning VI

Philippi

Idolatry can be an idol, an ideology or an individual.

Idolatry can be Mammon money Baal sex and power or Caesar nationalism.

- In Athens idolatry was idols and ideology.
- In Samaria idolatry was an individual and ideology.

Consider Acts 16:12-26

NLT Acts 16:12 ^{From} there we **reached Philippi, a major city of that district of Macedonia and a Roman colony.** And we stayed there several days.¹³ On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there.¹⁴ One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, **who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying.**¹⁵ She and her household were baptized, and she asked us to be her guests. “If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my home.” And she urged us until we agreed.¹⁶ **One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit that enabled her to tell the future. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling fortunes.**¹⁷ She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved.”¹⁸ This went on day after day until **Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.”** And instantly it left her.¹⁹ **Her masters’ hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace.**²⁰ “The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews!” they shouted to the city officials.²¹ “They are teaching customs that are illegal for us Romans to practice.”²² **A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods.**²³ **They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison.** The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn’t escape.²⁴ So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.²⁵ **Around midnight Paul and Silas**

were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.
²⁶ Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!

I

The place was Philippi a chief city in Macedonia. Vs 12-13

Cities are both the abode of God and the battle ground of Satan.

Paul and Silas have a vision to *come over to Macedonia and help.*

- When a city is in trouble a cry should go out! Vs 9

II

The partners of Paul and Silas were women of worship. Vs 14

The women were open to the message from God.

- The Lord has people in every place seeking Him.
- The Lord has people in every city crying out to Him.

III

The problem was idolatry of Mammon in the city.

Idolatry will impact the next generation. Vs 16-17

In Philippi we find Mammon as the motivation for exploitation.

- Mammon was the idolatry of the Philippi.

Mammon and individuals were oppressing the next generation.

- *The injustice was a demonized young girl was bringing in great profits to her oppressors.*

- This is the exploitation of a vulnerable woman.

IV

The power was in God's delegated authority. Vs 18-25

Paul grieved with this oppression and possession. Vs 18

Paul was both troubled and displeased.

Paul was pained and offended.

- Paul was greatly annoyed.

Paul commanded the spirit out of her.

The deliverance brought retaliation from the masters. Vs 19

Paul and Silas suffered backlash and imprisonment. Vs 20-24

- *The Lord delivered Paul and Silas at midnight. Vs 25*