

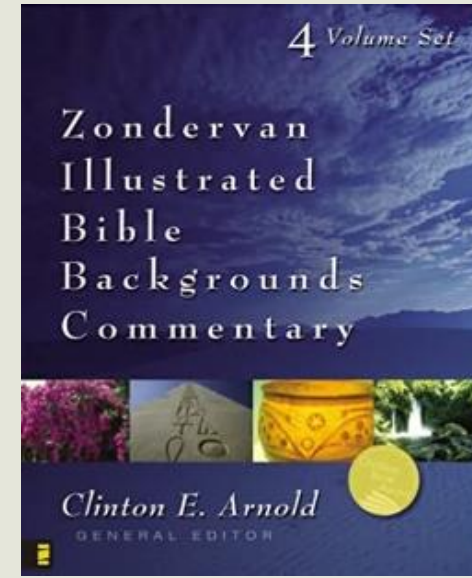
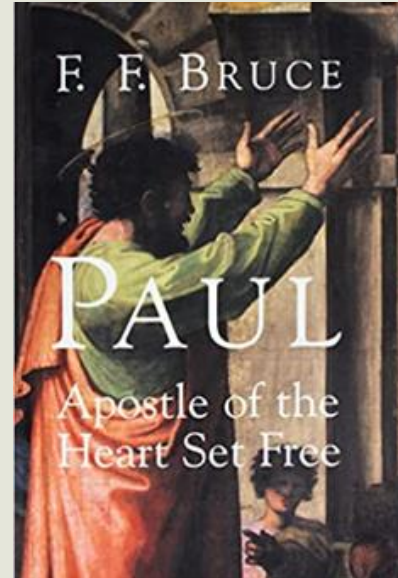
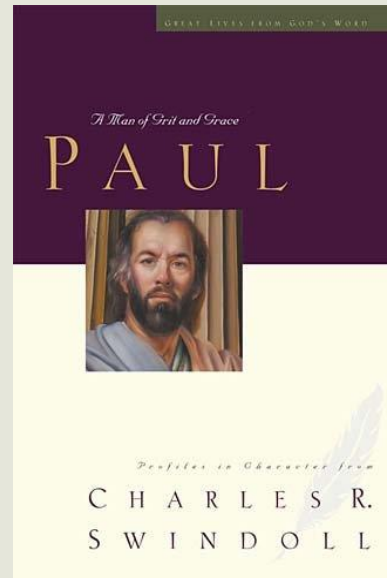
The background is a dark grey chalkboard with various white chalk sketches. On the left, there is a large drawing of a microscope. Above it, a globe of the Earth is sketched. In the bottom left, there are sketches of books and a cross. In the bottom right, there are sketches of a percentage sign, an exclamation mark, and a right-angle symbol. The overall theme is educational and scientific.

Paul – Lesson 9

New Testament Studies

CBC B&B Sunday School
June 11, 2023

Source Material



Companion Sources

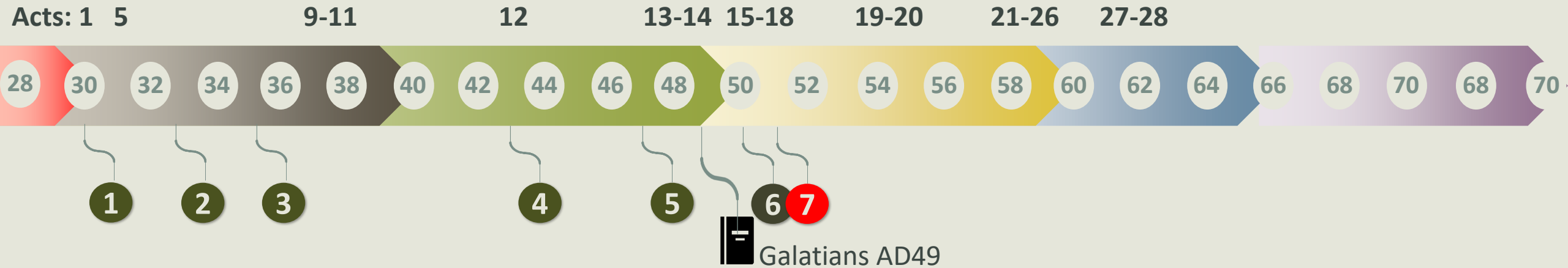
Lesson 9 Intro...

- Acts 16:1-10 (~ AD 51):
 - Paul recruited Timothy to join his mission team (Acts 16:1-3)
 - Holy Spirit guided Paul with a new mission objective (Acts 16:6-10)
 - Dr. Luke joined Paul's mission team (Acts 16:10)

Acts 16:11-40 [NASB]

Characteristics of an Evangelistic Mentality

Chronology of Acts / Life & Ministry of Paul



1 Ascension – Acts 1
Pentecost – Acts 2
Apostles before Sanhedrin – Acts 5

2 Stoning of Stephen – Acts 7

3 Paul's Conversion – Acts 9

4 Paul to Antioch – Acts 11

5 Paul's First Missionary Journey – Acts 13-14

6 Jerusalem Council – Acts 15

7 Paul's Second Missionary Journey Begins

Acts 16:11-13 [NASB]

¹¹ So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to **Samothrace**, and on the day following to **Neapolis**; ¹² and from there to **Philippi**, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a *Roman* colony; and we were staying in this city for some days. ¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.

*Map used by Permission – Standard Bible Atlas

Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Evangelism in Philippi

- A prominent wealthy business women
- A demon-possessed slave girl
- A Roman guard tasked with keeping Paul and Silas in Custody.

Acts 16:13-15 [NASB]

¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.¹⁴ A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. ¹⁵ And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

Wealthy Business Woman

- Gate to a riverside...place of prayer (Acts 16:13)
 - Lack of a synagogue; common place to gather is by the riverside
- Speaking to the women (Acts 16:13)
 - Not preaching to the masses; this is a personal conversation
 - Lacking presence of men
- Seller of Purple Fabric (Acts 16:14)
 - High in demand as the Romans used purple cloth to signify rank
- She and her household (Acts 16:15)
 - Independently able to support herself and others as head

Acts 16:16-18 [NASB]

¹⁶ It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, “These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation.” ¹⁸ She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!” And it came out at that very moment.

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Demon-Possessed Slave Girl

- Spirit of Divination (lit. “python spirit”) (Acts 16:16)
 - Not thought of negatively in Paul’s days
 - Designated as evil and subject to exorcism later in church history
- Spirit praising Paul’s team (Acts 16:17)
 - Either a back-handed compliment or speaking praises in order to avoid confrontation with Paul
- Slave girl is the victim everyone is ignoring
 - Others profiting off of her suffering

Acts 16:19-24 [NASB]

¹⁹ But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities, ²⁰ and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, “These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews, ²¹ and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans.”²² The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order *them* to be beaten with rods. ²³ When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; ²⁴ and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Acts 16:25-30 [NASB]

²⁵ But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; ²⁶ and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

²⁷ When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!" ²⁹ And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰ and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Roman Guard

- Praying and Singing Hymns of Praise (Acts 16:25)
 - Effectively a worship service
 - Evangelistic effort reaching out to the prisoners (they've no where else to go)
- Earthquake / Doors Opened, Chains Unfastened (Acts 16:26)
 - Luke – Gentile perspective - earthquake + magically doors opened/chains loosed
 - Paul – Spiritual perspective - “earthquake” + “magically” doors opened / chains loosed
- About to Kill Himself... (Acts 16:27)
 - Penalty for allowing prisoners to escape evidently more excruciating than death itself.

Acts 16:25-30 [NASB]

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Acts 16:11-40 [NASB]

Class Discussion –
What is an Evangelistic Mission?

Paul's Encounter in Philippi

- Evangelizing to a prominent wealthy business women
- Casting out a demon
- Persecuted for curing someone of demon possession

Real Mission? Or only in NT Times?

Paul's Encounter in Philippi

- Evangelizing to a prominent wealthy business women
- Casting out a demon
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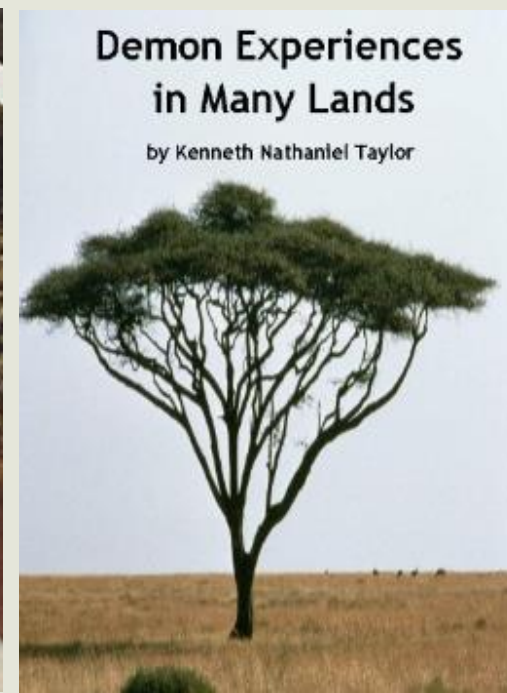
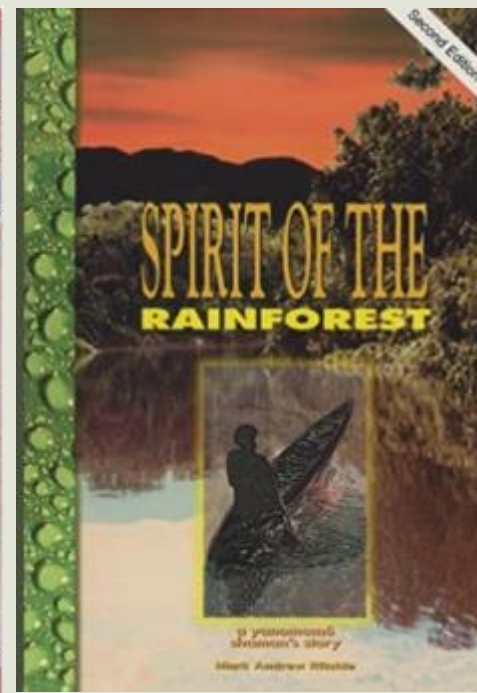
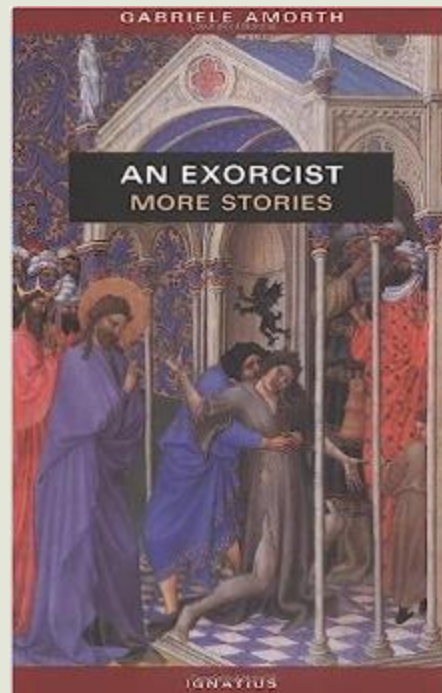
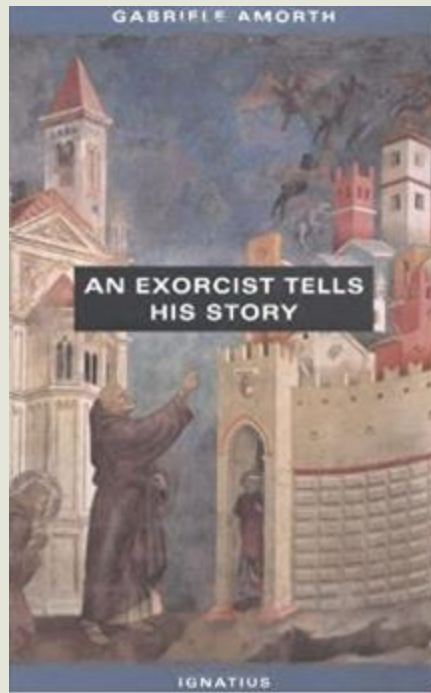
What can we expect to see in a real evangelistic mission to an unknown people group?

Demon Possessed – Real or Fake?

I have seen or I have heard from friends on evangelistic missions where demons or demon possession was witnessed

Demons or demon possession is overhyped or often a mischaracterization of a medical condition. They are not real.

Father Amorth



Voodoos, Hexes, Black Magic, etc..

Acts 16:11-40 [NASB]

Characteristics of an Evangelistic Mentality

Paul's Evangelistic Encounter in Philippi

Paul's evangelistic attitude can be observed in the following ways:

- He goes to the place where the seekers would gather (16:13 - by the river)
- He speaks to an audience who weren't the traditional targets (16:13 - the women)
- He speaks to the people, rather than preaching to the masses (16:13)
- He continues to let the Holy Spirit do the work of convicting (16:14)
- He engaged in practical ministry to help those in suffering (16:18 - acting on the authority of Christ to cast away demons, even as the demon was affirming his ministry).
- He evangelized with his living testimony, praising God even in midst of suffering (16:25)
- His practical ministry involves both doing and encouraging others to righteous acts (16:26-29)
- He uses his identity strategically (withheld his Roman citizenship status) for the purpose of reaching more seekers (16:37-39).

Principles I

- **An evangelistic mentality requires a focus on the practical –**

Unlike his previous mission trip with Barnabas, this new harvest field consists of people who know little about the Jewish laws (OT) and practices (Tradition). Explaining Scripture to show Jesus is the Messiah would make little sense to this audience. Evangelism had to take on a different approach from a Scripture-based approach to being more practical, with living testimonies towards righteous living, and faith demonstrating a supernatural reliance (prayers) on spiritual sufferings.

Principles II

- **An evangelistic mentality requires flexibility to agendas –**

On the surface, it may seem that this trip into Macedonia lacked proper planning and organization, as Paul didn't have even the bare minimum knowledge of which cities they would visit. Verse 11-12 effectively says that they simply went to the place where there is people, and afterwards, they followed where the Spirit leads. This flexibility to the mission agenda and destinations will be highlighted more so as Paul's journey continues from Philippi, where Paul simply need to go, effectively, where the Spirit leads. In short, Evangelism takes place when we go to where the people are, and be flexible with our schedule and agenda by following where the Spirit leads.

Principles III

- **An evangelistic mentality requires commitment to trust in the LORD –** Paul's adventure in Philippi was met with supernatural encounters at every stop – from the joy of witnessing the salvation at the river, to the taunting (backhanded compliment) of the demon surrounded by other witnesses, to the angelic act of causing the prison structure to shake / chains coming off. Each encounter challenges Paul to maintain his living testimony as an ambassador for Christ. He had to demonstrate his unwavering trust that God is in control, no matter the circumstance. Paul did so, epitomized by singing praises to God as both he and Silas were unjustly imprisoned and shackled. During evangelistic events, our actions as ambassadors for Christ are always on full display – especially as it relates to demonstrating our faith and trust in God no matter the circumstances.

Questions