

## Lessons & Observations from Acts 16

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1. Sometimes things are done as matters of expediency in the church so as not to create controversy within or without.
2. Sometimes the Lord closes one door because he has opened a bigger one.
3. People should choose the Lord's will over their own.
4. Be alert to the Lord's provision of opportunities in your life and service to Him.
5. Hospitality and charitableness are part of the gospel of Christ. The gospel:
  - a. Warms the heart
  - b. Spreads the table
  - c. Feeds the hungry
  - d. Clothes the naked
  - e. Houses the fatherless
  - f. Minister to the needs of the unfortunate
6. Although one's body may be bound (prison, hospital, disease, poverty, etc.), one spirit is still free to sing and pray.
7. Some who are imprisoned physically are free spiritually.
8. Some who are free physically are imprisoned spiritually.
9. Even during times of one's adversity, he can still see the needs of others.
10. True Christians are trustworthy.
11. God will take care of His won. **Romans 8:28** – "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."
12. "Unkind" people can sometimes be kind.
13. Some people will take advantage of and capitalize on another person's misfortune and/or handicaps.
14. If life hands you a lemon, make lemonade.
15. Just because others may say something about you, does not necessarily make what they say true.
16. One person's obedience to Christ may result in his whole family obeying Christ.
17. Each person has influence, good or bad, over his family, relatives, and friends.
18. With effort, one's cruelty can change to kindness.
19. Christians should react to unkindness with kindness.

20. Christians should not react to unkindness with unkindness.
21. The jailor held one light . . . Paul held the greater light.
- a. **Acts 16:29**
- b. **John 8:12** – “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”
22. When the Lord says “no”, He has His reasons.
23. Christians should tell all men “Do yourself no harm.” Many are doing themselves harm through:
- a. Ignorance
- b. Error
- c. Traditions
- d. False doctrines
- e. Prejudices
- f. Stubbornness . . . An unwillingness to change
24. When one must depart, he should depart on good terms.
25. People today need t be like Lydia in that:
- a. Her **ears** were open to hear the word of god spoken by Paul. **Acts 16:16**
- b. Her **heart** was open to accept the will of God. **Acts 16:14**
- c. Her **mouth** was open to confess the Lord. **Acts 16:15**
- d. Her **life** was open to being baptized into Christ. **Acts 16:15**
- e. Her **home** was open to receive the Lord’s servants. **Acts 16:15**
26. The answer to the jailor’s question, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?, Is the same today as it was then.
27. People need to analyze the jailor’s question carefully. **Acts 16:30**
- a. **“Saved”** – Because man is lost.
- b. **“To be saved”** – Because man cannot save himself.
- c. **“Do”** – Because there is action to be taken.
- d. **“I”** – Personal in that no one can do it for another.
- e. **“Must”** – Necessity . . . imperative . . . Something is necessary.
- f. **“What”** –There are some definite things men need to both know and do.
- John 8:32** – “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
- NOTE:** The question is asked three times in the Book of Acts.
1. The people in Jerusalem. **Acts 2:27** – “. . . What shall we do?”
2. Saul. **Acts 9:6** – “. . . What do you want me to do?”
3. Philippian jailor. **Acts 16:30** – “. . . Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

**NOTE:** Each time the question was asked, it was answered, and each time those asking the question obeyed the gospel and were baptized for the remission of sins.

28. Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem.
29. Suicide (self-murder) is not the answer to any of life's problems.
30. Christ is **the** answer . . . and may your answer be Christ.
31. Christ is ready to deliver all from the "jails" of sin. Christ has opened the door, but will you come out. **John 10:9** – "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."
32. The blood of Christ has loosed the shackles of sin.
33. By coming out of the "jails" (the world and sin), we come into Christ.
34. The choice is ours:
  - a. Imprisonment in sin or freedom and liberty in Christ.
  - b. Bondage in the world or membership in the Lord's Church.
  - c. Darkness in the dungeon or walking in the light of Christ.
  - d. Being outside of Christ or being in Christ.
  - e. Being without Christ, or being with Christ.
  - f. Being shackled or being free.
35. There is no place in the Christian life for putting trust in:
  - a. Fortune tellers
  - b. Soothsayers
  - c. Palm readers
  - d. Séances
  - e. Astrology
  - f. Horoscopes
  - g. Sorceries
  - h. The zodiac
  - i. Card reading
  - j. The occult
  - k. Witchcraft
  - l. Black magic
  - m. Divination
36. Christ changes lives. He changes people:
  - a. The immoral to the moral
  - b. The unjust to the just
  - c. The dishonest to the honest
  - d. The prideful to the humble
  - e. The powerful to the servant

- f. The wealthy to the benevolent
  - g. The authoritarian to the helpful
37. When the believer proclaims righteousness, he can expect to be opposed.
  38. Some public officials are neither open-minded nor honest.
  39. Public officials break laws as well
  40. Conversion does not come without first hearing the gospel.
  41. Serious problems, adversities, human suffering, etc., will either draw a person closer to God or drive him farther away from the Father.
  42. Never underestimate the effect of godly parenting on a child.
  43. Sometimes we need to go beyond the call of duty in order to further the kingdom of God.
  44. Pray for God to open and close the doors of your life as He desires.
  45. The words we leave behind will be a lasting picture of who we are.
  46. Even the most successful person needs the personal care of others.
  47. Excellence is shown by how we work when no one is noticing.
  48. When God says “yes”, He means YES!
  49. When God says “no”, he means NO!
  50. God will guide you to the places He wants you to go for Him.
  51. While it is important to know what God wants, it is equally important to know what God does not want.
  52. Women in the church in the New Testament, and women in the church today, can yield a great influence for good and do many mighty works.
  53. The good news of the gospel affects all strata of society.
  54. Truth and evil do not mix.
  55. No matter what our circumstances, we should praise God.