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How We See People
Acts 16:16-40

Gal 3:28-29 *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*
29 *And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.*

Seeing People Differently:

I. From _____ to _____

Acts 16:16-19 *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. 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...*

- Context –
- Slave Girl –
 - Literally Enslaved –
 - Spiritually Enslaved –

II. From _____ to _____

Acts 16:19-24 *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.*

III. From _____ to _____

Acts 16:25-30 *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?"*

Point:

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!

1. How do you see people? As means to get what you want or as children of God created in God's image? How might you unknowingly treat people like property or means to profit? What would change if you saw your coworkers, customers, and those who serve you first as children of God?
2. How do you know that the person who is standing before you was not put there by God Himself? How do you know that the person you overlook is not the person God is putting there for your good? How do you know that the person who seems different than you, or a threat to you, is not God's agent to help you experience new life?
3. When have you felt worthless? How does knowing Christ shape your self-worth?



To talk personally and confidentially about your relationship with Christ, please email Pastor Todd (pastortodd@thevineva.org) or Pastor Kris (krisbeckert@thevineva.org).