

Acts 16:16-18

The Evil Spirit and the Slave Girl

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally, Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

Every Day with God

This very short story reminds me of the movie "The Exorcist." The girl in the movie is like this slave girl. She has a demon in her, which makes her do evil things. The slave girl was able to predict the future although we don't know how accurate she was. Her owners made lots of money off of her because of this remarkable deed. When the slave girl heard Paul and Silas talk about the future as taught by Jesus Christ, she could see that their message could dig into her profit. She followed them around and began mocking them. Paul became so annoyed that he told the spirit to leave her and it did.



Photo: Beware of evil spirits!

Paul did the slave girl a favor by exorcising the evil spirit. What happened to the slave girl? We don't know. What are we to learn from this story? Once again, it showed the powers that Christ had given to his Apostles. Paul's miracle had to make people stop and think about who these men were. If they could make an evil spirit vanish, what else could they do? Evil spirits today come in many sizes and shapes. One of the more well-known evil spirits we call "drugs." Beware!

Prayer: Keep us from evil spirits.