

Jesus Changes Lives (Part 2): Set Free!

Where have you experienced unwanted change lately? Where do you long for change?

A Fortune-Making Slave Girl

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. -Acts 16:16-18

In what way can you relate to this slave-girl?

An Imprisoned Jailer

When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."... Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. -Acts 16:27-33

In what way can you relate to the imprisoned jailer?

Baptized into New Life and Freedom!

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. -Romans 6:3-4

Jesus' *pala genesia*, re-creative and renewing power, is with us.

The Kingdom Is Near

- ❖ WHAT are some internal emotions or thoughts that oppress people today?
- ❖ WHAT are some external factors or behaviors that bind people's lives today?
- ❖ WHAT is something internal or external that I want Jesus to change in my life?
- ❖ HOW will I spend more time with the real Jesus this week?

Knowing Jesus changes our hearts and lives.