

The DEVIL REARS HIS UGLY HEAD

The devil hates it when he sees his followers plucked from his hands and placed in the kingdom of God. He had already lost too many through his great enemy, Paul. He had to stop Paul somehow!

READ ACTS 16: 16 - 24

Other than Paul and Silas, just about every character in today's reading is in bondage to the devil with the slave girl being the most severely affected (vs 16-17). She was possessed by an evil snake spirit which people believed enabled her to tell fortunes. As for her owners, they were so evil, they must have been the devil's favourite disciples. They not only exploited the poor girl, they were violent men who lied about the real reason they wanted Paul and Silas arrested (vs 19-20). The crowd must have been blinded by the devil, otherwise, they would have realised that the real reason those men were so furious with Paul and Silas was that with the girl's deliverance, they couldn't make money out of her anymore (v 19). As for the magistrates, what kind of people were they anyway? The thrash first and talk later kind, the kind the devil loves (v 22). The jailer was of course following orders (vs 23-24) but seeing how badly beaten Paul and Silas were, he could have shown some compassion. Then again, people under the influence of the devil don't even know the meaning of that word. (Refer to the reading in Day 72 to refresh your memory about how painful stocks (v 24) can be.)

So, we see at every turn the devil trying to destroy the ministry of Paul and Silas. The devil and not anti-Christian persons is our real enemy.

PRAY

Pray that people around the world who commit acts of violence against Christians will be delivered from their bondage to the devil and repent of their sins.