

Acts 16:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

Analysis

Paul, being grieved (διαπονηθεὶς, diaponētheis)—not anger but godly distress at evil exploiting a human soul. Paul's patience ('many days') shows pastoral wisdom, not impulsiveness.

I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ (Παραγγέλλω σοι ἐν ὀνόματι Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ)—the apostolic formula for exorcism uses Christ's authority, not magical incantation. Unlike the Jewish exorcists in Acts 19:13-16, Paul invokes genuine divine power. **He came out the same hour** demonstrates immediate, complete deliverance—but notice this ended the girl's economic value (v.19), triggering persecution. Authentic liberation often costs those who profit from bondage.

Historical Context

This slave girl practiced Python divination (v.16), associated with the Oracle of Delphi. Roman Philippi was steeped in pagan religion. Her owners exploited her demonic abilities for financial gain—a common practice in the Greco-Roman world where fortune-telling was big business.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Why did Paul wait 'many days' before confronting the spirit rather than acting immediately?
2. How does this exorcism differ from magical practices, and what does 'in the name of Jesus Christ' signify about the source of Paul's authority?

Interlinear Text

τοῦτο	δὲ	ἐποίει	ἐπὶ	πολλὰς	ἡμέρας	διαπονηθεὶς	δὲ
this	And	did she	G1909	many	days	being grieved	And
G5124	G1161	G4160		G4183	G2250	G1278	G1161
ὁ	Παῦλος	καὶ	ἐπιστρέψας	τῷ	πνεύματι	εἶπεν	
G3588	Paul	And	turned	G3588	to the spirit	said	
	G3972	G2532	G1994		G4151	G2036	
Παραγγέλλω	σοι	ἐν	τῷ	ὀνόματι	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ	
I command	thee	in	G3588	the name	of Jesus	Christ	
G3853	G4671	G1722		G3686	G2424	G5547	
ἐξῆλθεν	ἀπ'	αὐτῇ	καὶ	ἐξῆλθεν	αὐτῇ	τῇ	ὥρᾳ
he came out	out of	her	And	he came out	her	G3588	hour
G1831	G575	G846	G2532	G1831	G846		G5610

Additional Cross-References

Mark 16:17 (Parallel theme): And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Acts 3:6 (References Jesus): Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

Acts 9:34 (References Jesus): And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

Mark 1:34 (Parallel theme): And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

Colossians 2:15 (Parallel theme): And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Luke 9:1 (Parallel theme): Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

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