

The Acts of the Holy Spirit

Acts 16:16-17:9

What groups of people get angry with Paul in 16:16-21? What sorts of charges do they bring against Paul, and where do they do it? In what ways does this encounter extend of and depart from the Stephen story? When they land in prison in Acts 16:22-24, what has the book set up readers to expect at this point?

In Philippi (as well as in other Greek cities), earthquakes were traditionally signs from Poseidon, the god of underwater and underground things. When the jailer in Philippi discovers that this earthquake has shaken his prison, what does he immediately assume, and what is his response? What about the situation most surprises him?

When the local authorities, beginning in Acts 16:35, come to release Paul and Silas, how do the missionaries respond? Since Paul hails from Tarsus and Palestine, how is he a Roman citizen? How does their response fit with the things that Jesus says about resisting evil? What is the last thing that Paul and Silas do before departing Philippi?

When Paul and Silas come to Thessalonica, a city with a synagogue, what things happen that continue the pattern of fulfilling Stephen's ministry? How do the synagogue officials react? In what ways do the charges leveled at Paul and Silas echo those laid upon Jesus?