

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: To win, build and send Department of Defense leaders to live for Jesus Christ

7-11 April 2003

ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

#13 – ASSIGNMENT THE PENTAGON – PRISON OR PRAISE

INTRODUCTION:

- In what ways have you experienced God's guidance in what assignment you should pursue?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION:

Note: *This is the beginning of what is known as the Second Missionary journey. "Paul said to Barnabas, Let us return and visit the brethren in the city which we proclaimed the word of the Lord and see how they are doing" (Act 15:36). Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, but Paul did not because Mark deserted them on their First Missionary journey. Paul and Barnabas had a "sharp disagreement" and separated from each other. Barnabus took John Mark with him and Paul took Silas.*

Read Acts 16:1-5

- Why did Paul return to Lystra where he was almost stoned to death?
- Describe Timothy's background and character.
- What impact did Paul and Silas have there? (5)

Read Acts 16:6-10

- In what ways did Paul and his team experience God's guidance in their new assignment?
- How does God speak to us today about assignments?

Read Acts 16:16-34

- How did Paul handle the situation that arose with the slave girl? (18)
- What were the consequences for Paul and Silas for the slave girl's release?
- Instead of complaining at their unjust and uncomfortable situation, how did Paul and Silas respond to their jail term?
- What effect did it have on all the prisoners and the jailer?
- Why do you suppose Luke and Timothy were not imprisoned?
- If asked, "What must I do to be saved?" how would you answer?
- What can you learn from the disciples' experience that will help you as you encounter difficult times?

APPLICATION:

- What are some principles you would use today to discern God's will for your future assignment?
- How should we respond to adversity in our present assignment?

But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for I am in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result..."

Genesis 50:19, 20