

Three 'possessed' people in Philippi

ACTS 16 V 16 - 40

The slave girl – possessed by a demonic spirit

Evil spirits with supernatural powers are real.

In Zambia many people consult witch doctors
→ fear & demon possession.

But Jesus is more powerful. In his name people can be set free from evil spirits.

We should avoid fortune telling. Instead we should believe that nothing (not even the future) can separate us from the love of God.

Romans 8 v 38 & 39

“I am convinced that nothing
the future nor anything else in
all creation, will be able to separate
us from the love of God that is in
Christ Jesus.”

The slave girl's owners – possessed by a desire to make money

Many people go to extreme lengths to make money.

In Zambia some people become Satanists which involves killing their spouse or parents to get rich.

Other people 'sacrifice' their family by going far away to study for long periods in the hope of getting a better paid job.

We should avoid loving money and putting our hope in such an uncertain thing as wealth.

Instead we should put our hope in God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

1 Timothy 6 v 6,10 & 17

“those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap.....the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.....

..put [*your*] hope in God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment”

The missionaries – possessed by desire to make disciples of Jesus

Paul & Silas' lives were driven by a passion to spread the good news about Jesus and make disciples of Jesus no matter what it cost them.

Philippians 1 v 20-21

“I eagerly expect and hope that .. I will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

What am I possessed by?

- ❖ **Desire to do evil ?**
- ❖ **Fear of the future ?**
- ❖ **Love of money and what it can buy for me ?**

- ✓ **Desire to please God**
- ✓ **The certainty of God's love for me**
- ✓ **Passion to see other people become believers in Jesus**

A Prayer to close

Lord Jesus Christ,

I thank you for the examples of people in the Bible.

Give me the desire and the power to avoid what is evil.

Keep me from the love of money.

Fill me with the certainty that your love for me is for ever.

Thrill me with the good news of your salvation which is for everyone.

Help me play my part in sharing that message with all people everywhere.

May my life be lived only for your praise and glory. Amen