

## Consecration 2021

### PERMISSION

January 17, 2020

Consecration is the act of setting someone or something apart; to dedicate someone or something for a specific purpose; make holy

#### REVIEW:

**THEME: Living with God's Permission**

**TEXT:** Acts 16:6-7 "...having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; 7 ...they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them;" [NASU]

Do you ask for God's permission before you attempt to do something?

Permission is defined as the act of permitting, especially in giving formal consent ; authorization

Has to do with Trust; Transfer (decision making); Turning to (needy)

#### 1. Where Does God want me to go? (To His Purpose)

Acts 16:9 "A vision appeared to Paul in the night..., "Come over to Macedonia and help us." [NASU]

#### 2. What does God want me to do? (Proclaim the Gospel)

Acts 16:9-10 "...concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them." [NASU]

#### TODAY

#### PART 3: Week of Fasting

Jesus said "*When you fast...*" (Matthew 6: 16) Not if you fast or if you feel led to fast!

Fasting is simply doing without food, period! In the garden man partook of the restrictive and died. The new Adam restricts the allowable and life springs into new dimensions! God promises to reward us for what we do in secret.

You choose how you will fast this week.

#### 3. How Does God want me to Prepare? (Prayer)

Acts 16:11-13 "*So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony; and we were staying in this city for some days. 13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.*" [NASU]

Before we began let me be clear, I know that fasting is not in the text. However, in the life of the Jewish community that Paul is dealing with, fasting was a weekly priority. John's Disciples and the Pharisees even questioned Jesus about HIS disciples fasting regiment. Jesus did not lay down a regimented pattern for fasting but assured us the value of it as a practice.

As we prepare to do what God gives us permission to do we should:

**a. Pray with People who Pray**

Vs. 13 *"we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer (where we expected to find, NIV); and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled."*

**b. Pray with Possessed**

Acts 16:16-18 *"And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us... 18 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."* [KJV]

Now I'm not suggesting in this point that we go looking for a demon, but when demons come attacking, we need to be ready to pray with those possessed.

Possess here means to hold in the hand or to own; to have or hold possession of the mind

**c. Pray with a Partner**

Acts 16:25a *"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God,..."*

**d. Pray with the Prisoner & those in Pain**

Acts 16:25c *"... and the prisoners were listening to them,"* [ESV]

Pray with people in your area of influence when they are hurting. Those that are prisoners...not just in the physical prisons but the prisons of their own making

**e. Pray with those who Punish You**

Acts 16:27-32 *"And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.. 30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. 32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house."* [KJV]

Matt 5:43-48 *"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."* [KJV]