I MYCHURCH



From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved."



She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities.

They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.



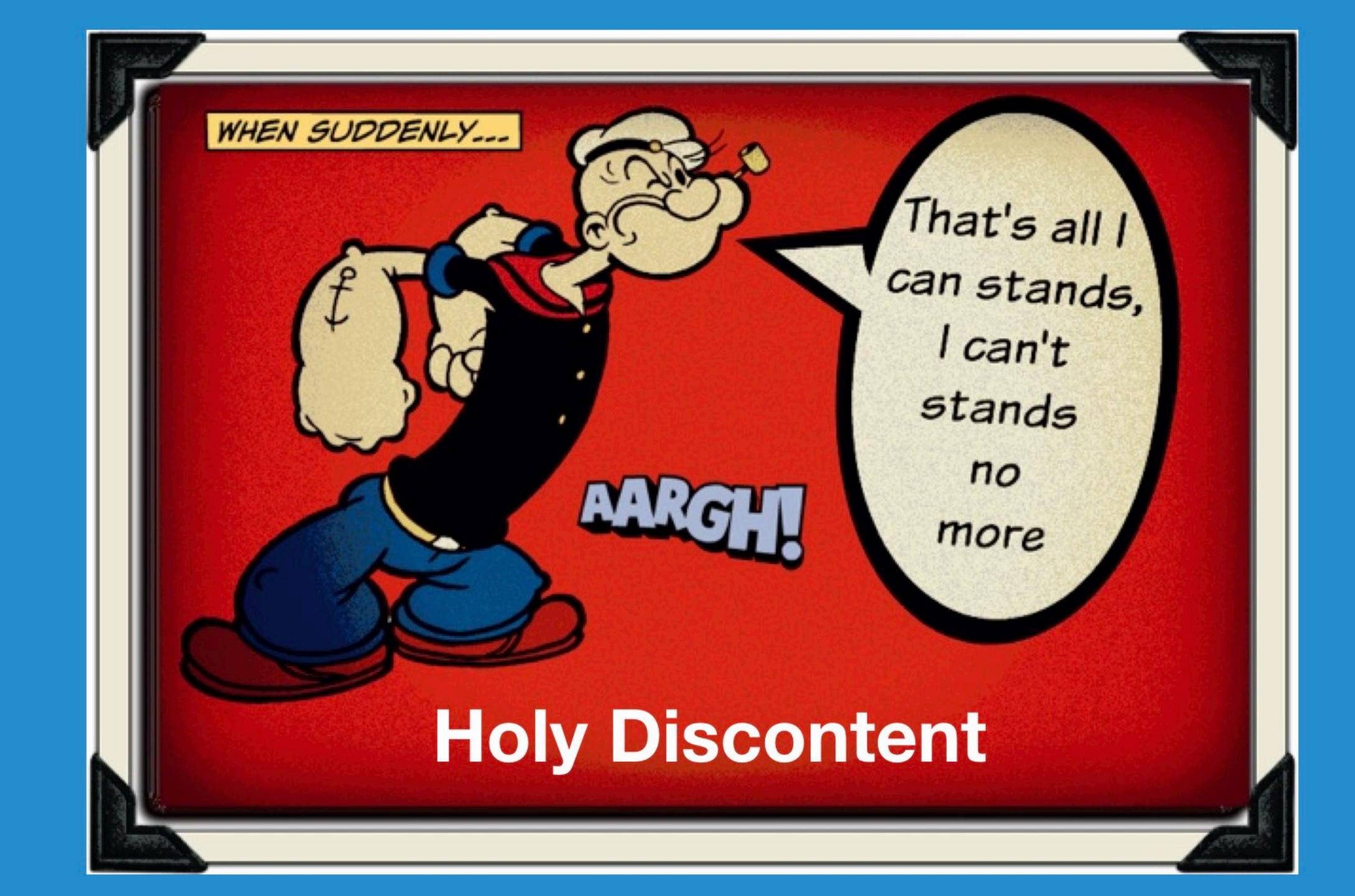
Paul tries to IGNORE the problem.

Paul gets ANNOYED with the problem.

Paul gets angry and FACES the problem.

Paul ATTACKS THE SPIRITUAL ROOT of the problem, not the person.





"For we are not fighting against flesh-andblood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12).

Paul faces opposition

Forces at work behind slavery

- Spiritual
- Financial
- Cultural

"The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force" (Matthew 11:12, NASB).

The Kingdom of God

_

What things look like when God is in charge.

Jesus changes lives.

Changed lives lead to transformed cultures.

We Right The Wrongs

Be Aware (Hear It)

Be Annoyed (Feel it)

Be Angry (See It)

But Most Importantly

Be Active (Do Something About It!)



Video story here

https://ijm.app.box.com/s/y5feyknvppeji1q93i8i1wi1fo1pnm80/folder/







