

ACTS 16–COME OVER TO MACEDONIA

Paul chose Silas—one of the prophets whom the church at Jerusalem had selected to accompany its epistle to Antioch—to go with him on his second missionary journey. Barnabas and Paul have parted ways. Barnabas took John Mark and went to Cyprus.

We will call our study of Acts 16, “come over into Macedonia and help us” based on Acts 16:9. We meet four people in this chapter: Timothy, Lydia, damsel, Philippian jailor.

I. Paul second Journey.

A. Timothy

1. Paul and Silas went to Derbe and Lystra (where Paul was stoned and left for dead).
2. Paul decided to take Timothy with them.
 - a. Timothy’s mother Eunice and grandmother Lois had taught him the sacred scriptures.
 - b. II Tim. 1:5; 3:15.
 - c. His father was a Greek.
3. Timothy was circumcised.
 - a. Why Timothy and not Titus?
 - b. Gal. 2:3-5
 - c. Cases were different.
 - (1) Titus was a full Greek.
 - (2) timothy was part Jewish.
 - (3) Paul’s way of conciliating the non-Christian Jews and thereby, furthering the cause of the gospel.
4. They delivered the decrees mentioned in Acts 15.
5. Churches were established (strengthened) in the faith and increased on daily basis.

B. Plans Change (16:6-10).

1. Asia Minor covered that territory now known as Turkey.
 - a. It was divided into seven provinces.
 - b. Asia, Bithynia, Pamphylia, Galatia, Pontus, Cappadocia, Cilicia.
2. Forbidden of H/S. (vss.6,7)
 - a. Sometimes we have to change our plans.
 - b. Our will may conflict with God’s will.
3. Had no choice but to keep going forward.
4. Come over to Macedonia.
 - a. Immediately we endeavored to go.
 - b. The “we” indicates Luke has now joined them.
 - c. Immediately tells us the urgency in evangelism.

C. Gospel goes to Europe (16:11-)

1. From Troas to Samothracia, Neapolis, to Philippi.
2. Journey only took two days.
3. We now have four men in this group: Paul, Silas, Timothy, Luke.

D. Conversion of Lydia

1. Paul and Silas evidently did not find a synagogue because such did not exist there.
2. Evidently found out about a group that was in the habit of meeting outside the city by the river.
3. Found a group of women and preached to them.
4. Lydia was a seller of purple.
 - a. From the city of Thyatira in Asia Minor. A place where Paul had just been forbidden to go.
 - b. The first convert in Europe was from Asia.
 - c. She was evidently on a business trip.

- d. Took time in her busy schedule to worship God.
 - e. She evidently closed her business while her competition continued to work.
 - f. She did better than many professed Christians do now!
5. Paul taught her.
- a. She heard the word of God (16:13c, 14, 10; 15:7)
 - b. Lord opened her heart.
 - (1) Not closed by a sinful life or by inherited depravity.
 - (2) Was closed regarding Jesus as the Messiah to come.
 - c. How did he open her heart?
 - (1) By the word of God (16:14).
 - (2) Opened her heart through the message and the messenger.
6. She attended unto the things which were spoken by Paul.
7. Showed hospitality after becoming a Christian.
- E. Damsel with spirit of divination (16:16-24).
- 1. Brought her masters much gain (fortune teller)
 - 2. Paul cast the spirit out of her.
 - 3. Why? The spirit was saying “these men are the servants of the Most High God, which shew unto us the way of salvation (Literally, “a way of salvation.”)
 - 4. It would seem that Paul did not want the impression left on the minds of people that there was an alliance between the missionaries and demons.
 - 5. When the evil spirit “went out,” the masters saw that their hope of profit “went out!”
 - 6. False accusations made.
 - 7. They were beaten with rods and cast into prison (First Gentile persecution)
 - 8. First place they go in answer to Macedonian call results in jail time.
- F. Conversion of Philippian jailor (16:25-34).
- 1. The jailor is given orders to keep them safely.
 - 2. Placed in inner prison and fastened their feet in stocks.
 - 3. Paul and Silas not only had the physical pain of sitting in a dark dungeon, with their backs bruised and bleeding, their feet fastened in the stocks, but also the injustice that had been done to them.
 - 4. Instead of being in a rage, these two prayed and sang praised to God (I Pet. 4:16).
 - 5. The events at midnight.(v.25)
 - a. No doubt the singing and praying were unusual sounds coming from a prison cell.
 - b. Accustomed to hearing foul language and screaming.
 - c. Earthquake.
 - (1) Doors were opened.
 - (2) Chains or bands were loosed.
 - d. Panic of jailor (v.27)
 - e. Paul cried out to him (v.28)
 - f. The jailor is alarmed at the earthquake, he is amazed that the prisoners are still there, he is confounded at the calmness of Paul and Silas, he is overwhelmed at the proof of the presence of God.
6. Sirs what must I do to be saved (v.30)
- a. Must–necessity
 - b. I–personal
 - c. Do–action or requirement on my part.
7. Answer: “Believe...”
- a. Don’t leave the jail too soon!
 - b. Verses 32,33
 - c. “Speak unto him the word of the Lord” i.e. tell them the story of Jesus.

- d. “And was baptized...”
- e. Why same hour of night if not essential?
- 8. Rejoiced after baptism. (v.34)
- G. Release from Prison (16:35-40)
 - 1. Let these men go.
 - 2. Paul refused to go that quietly.
 - 3. Release was to be as public as the imprisonment.
 - 4. They continued to plead with them to leave the city.
 - 5. Went to Lydia’s, encouraged the brethren, and departed.

Con: We began the chapter with two missionary teams being sent out. The Macedonian call was answered and Paul and Silas end up in prison. Lydia was converted. . . . Philippian jailor was converted. . . . The church is established in Philippi. Both heard words preached to them and obeyed that message. The same applies to us today. Hear and obey.