

00:00:00.070 - 00:00:01.050

Let's go to Acts,

00:00:01.050 - 00:00:03.800

chapter 16.

00:00:03.800 - 00:00:04.799

Acts,

00:00:04.799 - 00:00:06.799

chapter 16.

00:00:06.799 - 00:00:11.099

As we kind of continue in this direction that we've been the last few weeks.

00:00:11.099 - 00:00:13.000

The mission starts here.

00:00:13.000 - 00:00:19.699

And I know we've kind of been in this kind of idea leading into Vacation Bible School,

00:00:19.699 - 00:00:33.299

because it is a time that we are really kind of focused on reaching out and making sure everybody knows that we're here and that we want people to be and be with us.

00:00:33.299 - 00:00:35.200

And so we started out the first week.

00:00:35.200 - 00:00:38.200

The first week we started out with the idea of what the mission is.

00:00:38.200 - 00:00:43.799

The mission is for us to go and make disciples.

00:00:43.799 - 00:00:46.300

Go and make other followers of Jesus.

00:00:46.300 - 00:00:50.100

Convince them that this is the best life for you to live.

00:00:50.100 - 00:00:52.609

I love the fact that Jesus didn't say,

00:00:52.609 - 00:00:56.600

"I'm going to make you follow me". He gives us a choice.

00:00:56.600 - 00:00:57.479

And in our lives,

00:00:57.479 - 00:00:59.440

when we have choices to do something,

00:00:59.440 - 00:01:01.899

we make the choice to follow Jesus.

00:01:01.899 - 00:01:03.049

That makes that decision,

00:01:03.049 - 00:01:03.450

I think,

00:01:03.450 - 00:01:04.200

more powerful,

00:01:04.200 - 00:01:06.200

it makes it more sincere.

00:01:06.200 - 00:01:08.900

Because it's not something that we have to do,

00:01:08.900 - 00:01:10.500

it's something that we choose to do.

00:01:10.500 - 00:01:18.299

But part of choosing that means that we've got to go and help other people decide to choose Jesus.

00:01:18.299 - 00:01:19.810

And that's the mission,

00:01:19.810 - 00:01:22.599

that we just keep multiplying each other.

00:01:22.650 - 00:01:23.549

Last week,

00:01:23.549 - 00:01:29.700

we talked about it from the direction of what happens when I run from the mission.

00:01:29.700 - 00:01:31.799

That there are going to be times in our lives,

00:01:31.799 - 00:01:35.400

there are going to be moments where I just decide,

00:01:35.400 - 00:01:39.299

"I don't want to do this". I've just made up my mind that this is too hard,

00:01:39.299 - 00:01:40.700

this is not what I want.

00:01:40.700 - 00:01:42.900

I want to be comfortable,

00:01:42.900 - 00:01:44.099

my pride gets in the way,

00:01:44.099 - 00:01:45.100

all these different things.

00:01:45.100 - 00:01:46.670

And we just decide,

00:01:46.670 - 00:01:54.500

"I'm not going to do this for God". And how do we overcome those things and how do we battle those things?

00:01:54.500 - 00:01:55.040

Well,

00:01:55.040 - 00:01:55.670

today,

00:01:55.670 - 00:02:00.099

we're going to talk about this idea of following God's lead.

00:02:00.099 - 00:02:01.079

And looking in Acts,

00:02:01.079 - 00:02:03.000

kind of chapters 15 and 16,

00:02:03.000 - 00:02:05.199

at this story of Paul.

00:02:05.199 - 00:02:10.099

And really look at it from the idea that sometimes I'm trying to live the mission.

00:02:10.099 - 00:02:13.599

Sometimes I'm trying to do what God has called me to do,

00:02:13.599 - 00:02:19.000

but I haven't quite really figured out what God's plan will be.

00:02:19.080 - 00:02:20.740

That I think I'm doing good,

00:02:20.740 - 00:02:22.199

I think I'm doing right,

00:02:22.199 - 00:02:29.300

but God's going to get Paul's attention because he's kind of in that moment where Paul's kind of doing what he thinks he's supposed to be doing.

00:02:29.300 - 00:02:29.719

God says,

00:02:29.719 - 00:02:29.939

"No,

00:02:29.939 - 00:02:30.120

no,

00:02:30.120 - 00:02:30.300

no,

00:02:30.300 - 00:02:30.479

no,

00:02:30.479 - 00:02:30.800

no.

00:02:30.800 - 00:02:33.800

I've got something else that I need you to do.

00:02:33.800 - 00:02:35.500

I've got other plans.

00:02:35.500 - 00:02:37.300

You're doing some good things,

00:02:37.300 - 00:02:42.050

but you're not doing what I want you to do at the moment".
And so we're going to see,

00:02:42.050 - 00:02:43.500

how do we recognize those moments?

00:02:43.500 - 00:02:44.800

How do we get into those moments?

00:02:44.800 - 00:02:46.400

How do we live those moments?

00:02:46.469 - 00:02:48.460

Before we do,

00:02:48.460 - 00:02:52.500

let's go to God in prayer.

00:02:52.500 - 00:02:52.780

God,

00:02:52.780 - 00:02:56.099

we thank you so much for the chance to just be in your presence this morning.

00:02:56.099 - 00:03:01.300

We thank you for the opportunity to worship and to sing praises to you this morning.

00:03:01.300 - 00:03:10.429

We thank you for the chance that we had to gather around your table at your invitation to remember the death,

00:03:10.429 - 00:03:10.640

burial,

00:03:10.640 - 00:03:12.699

and resurrection of Jesus.

00:03:12.699 - 00:03:15.500

We thank you for this time that we've had today.

00:03:15.599 - 00:03:19.900

We pray now that as we open up to this time in the life of Paul,

00:03:19.900 - 00:03:22.599

that we will open up our hearts as well,

00:03:22.599 - 00:03:28.700

that we will be willing to listen to your words and to your encouragement,

00:03:28.700 - 00:03:30.210

to focus on your wants,

00:03:30.210 - 00:03:31.039

your needs,

00:03:31.039 - 00:03:31.420

God,

00:03:31.420 - 00:03:32.400

not our own.

00:03:32.400 - 00:03:44.900

We just pray that we continue to have a heart that is open to our munity and willing to reach out into our munity and bring people closer to you in the hopes that they will decide to bee children of yours.

00:03:44.999 - 00:03:45.120

God,

00:03:45.120 - 00:03:47.000

we pray that you just bless this time together.

00:03:47.000 - 00:03:48.699

It's in your son's name we pray.

00:03:48.699 - 00:03:50.300

Amen.

00:03:50.300 - 00:03:52.300

All right.

00:03:52.300 - 00:03:53.219

So this week,

00:03:53.219 - 00:03:55.300

Paul embracing his mission.

00:03:55.300 - 00:03:56.900

Let's kind of set the stage a little bit.

00:03:56.900 - 00:03:58.000

So Acts chapter 15,

00:03:58.000 - 00:03:58.999

we're not going to read all of this.

00:03:58.999 - 00:04:00.699

We're just going to kind of set the stage.

00:04:00.699 - 00:04:01.759

Acts chapter 15,

00:04:01.759 - 00:04:03.200

verses 1 through 19.

00:04:03.200 - 00:04:09.099

There had been this struggle within the church between Jewish Christians and non-Jewish Christians.

00:04:09.099 - 00:04:16.500

And what parts of the old law applied to new Christians who weren't Jews and what parts didn't?

00:04:16.500 - 00:04:22.500

The Jewish Christians really wanted to pick up the old law and just kind of keep living it.

00:04:22.500 - 00:04:24.600

And the new Christians are like,

00:04:24.600 - 00:04:25.029

"Well,

00:04:25.029 - 00:04:28.899

that's not us". And Paul's out there kind of dealing with this and having these issues.

00:04:28.899 - 00:04:29.879

And he's saying,

00:04:29.879 - 00:04:30.420

"Look,

00:04:30.420 - 00:04:31.300

the old is gone,

00:04:31.300 - 00:04:31.500

all right?

00:04:31.500 - 00:04:32.100

The old's gone.

00:04:32.100 - 00:04:43.000

We're not doing this anymore". And so all the apostles gather together in Jerusalem and they have this big conversation and they figure out a way to sort this out.

00:04:43.060 - 00:04:48.399

They figure out what the answer to this kind of first big church-wide problem is.

00:04:48.399 - 00:04:51.300

And once they make that decision,

00:04:51.300 - 00:04:55.199

I'm going to try to give you some ideas of where we are.

00:04:55.199 - 00:04:57.399

They're in Jerusalem right now having this meeting.

00:04:57.399 - 00:04:59.600

Once they make this decision,

00:04:59.600 - 00:05:04.399

then Paul and Barnabas and their kind of travel party set off to Antioch.

00:05:04.399 - 00:05:06.699

They go north,

00:05:06.699 - 00:05:09.899

And they start explaining to people what's going on,

00:05:09.899 - 00:05:10.600

what's happening,

00:05:10.600 - 00:05:13.100

what the answer is here.

00:05:13.100 - 00:05:16.000

This is how we're going to solve this problem.

00:05:16.000 - 00:05:18.399

Then in verses 36 through 41,

00:05:18.399 - 00:05:20.899

so we talked about during vacation Bible school,

00:05:20.899 - 00:05:24.199

we see the breakup of Paul and Barnabas.

00:05:24.199 - 00:05:26.600

Paul and Barnabas were going to,

00:05:26.600 - 00:05:28.199

they had a plan.

00:05:28.199 - 00:05:35.600

Their plan was to go back and visit all the churches that they had established in their first mission trip.

00:05:35.600 - 00:05:38.149

The plan was kind of okay,

00:05:38.149 - 00:05:40.199

but who was going was the issue.

00:05:40.319 - 00:05:42.399

Barnabas wanted to take John Mark,

00:05:42.399 - 00:05:43.399

and Paul says,

00:05:43.399 - 00:05:43.699

"No,

00:05:43.699 - 00:05:45.800

he was with us for a little while last time.

00:05:45.800 - 00:05:46.899

He's not ready for this.

00:05:46.899 - 00:05:48.399

He abandoned the mission.

00:05:48.399 - 00:05:48.910

You know,

00:05:48.910 - 00:05:50.000

he was not mitted.

00:05:50.000 - 00:05:51.139

And if you're going to do this,

00:05:51.139 - 00:05:56.699

you've got to be mitted". And so they kind of separate over this.

00:05:56.699 - 00:05:58.920

Paul takes Silas,

00:05:58.920 - 00:06:00.199

who's kind of with their group,

00:06:00.199 - 00:06:02.399

and John Mark and Barnabas,

00:06:02.399 - 00:06:07.000

they go off and they take off in two different directions.

00:06:07.000 - 00:06:08.800

So Barnabas is the red star.

00:06:08.800 - 00:06:12.199

He goes off and starts in one direction.

00:06:12.199 - 00:06:15.000

Paul continues up north,

00:06:15.000 - 00:06:17.600

and both of them are following the plan.

00:06:17.600 - 00:06:18.600

Their plan was,

00:06:18.600 - 00:06:19.399

"Let's go,

00:06:19.399 - 00:06:23.000

and let's go to the places that we've already been.

00:06:23.000 - 00:06:25.000

Let's go back and encourage these churches,

00:06:25.000 - 00:06:26.439

see how they're doing,

00:06:26.439 - 00:06:27.399

teach them,

00:06:27.399 - 00:06:29.199

and just kind of figure out where everybody is,

00:06:29.199 - 00:06:33.600

share this news that we have been given,

00:06:33.600 - 00:06:40.000

and just kind of keep working with them". So we have two groups going in two different directions.

00:06:40.000 - 00:06:43.799

As we get into the beginning of chapters 16,

00:06:43.799 - 00:06:46.600

we see Timothy joins the team.

00:06:46.600 - 00:06:50.680

They end up in kind of this area of Iconium,

00:06:50.680 - 00:06:51.319

Lystra,

00:06:51.319 - 00:06:52.000

and Derbe,

00:06:52.000 - 00:06:55.399

and they find Timothy.

00:06:55.399 - 00:06:59.000

Timothy is doing great things amongst the believers there.

00:06:59.000 - 00:07:00.199

So he picks him up.

00:07:00.199 - 00:07:02.600

He becomes kind of Paul's new protege,

00:07:02.600 - 00:07:05.399

and they go on this trip together.

00:07:05.399 - 00:07:08.399

That leads us to our text this morning.

00:07:08.399 - 00:07:10.399

So let's start,

00:07:10.399 - 00:07:16.600

and let's read verses 6 through 15 together.

00:07:16.600 - 00:07:19.400

6 through 15 together.

00:07:19.400 - 00:07:25.000

"Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Pergaea and Galatia,

00:07:25.000 - 00:07:30.199

having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.

00:07:30.199 - 00:07:32.999

When they came to the border of Mysia,

00:07:32.999 - 00:07:35.000

they tried to enter Bithynia,

00:07:35.000 - 00:07:39.800

but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.

00:07:39.800 - 00:07:43.800

So they passed by Missa and down to Troas.

00:07:43.800 - 00:07:44.600

During the night,

00:07:44.600 - 00:07:48.600

Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him,

00:07:48.600 - 00:07:53.000

'e over to Macedonia and help us.' After Paul had seen the vision,

00:07:53.000 - 00:07:57.399

he got ready at once to leave for Macedonia,

00:07:57.399 - 00:08:02.399

concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them". Let's start right there.

00:08:02.399 - 00:08:05.199

Let's just kind of start in that section.

00:08:05.199 - 00:08:07.800

Go back to our first point there.

00:08:07.800 - 00:08:13.199

The first idea here that we're going to talk about is we see the Spirit redirect.

00:08:13.199 - 00:08:15.000

We see the Spirit redirect.

00:08:15.000 - 00:08:16.999

So we start out here,

00:08:16.999 - 00:08:21.599

and they are getting ready to kind of go and do what they'd been planning to do.

00:08:21.599 - 00:08:22.800

Paul is kind of pumped,

00:08:22.800 - 00:08:23.600

I would imagine,

00:08:23.600 - 00:08:25.400

for this mission.

00:08:25.400 - 00:08:26.800

He's got his new team.

00:08:26.800 - 00:08:29.600

He's got Silas and Timothy that's part of him now.

00:08:29.600 - 00:08:31.009

He's got his purpose,

00:08:31.009 - 00:08:31.199

right?

00:08:31.199 - 00:08:39.399

His purpose is to go and check on the churches that they have established and to share this new message with them or this clarification of the gospel,

00:08:39.399 - 00:08:40.600

I guess you could say.

00:08:40.600 - 00:08:43.399

It's a new season of growth.

00:08:43.399 - 00:08:47.600

That is such a true kind of obvious thing of what's going on.

00:08:47.600 - 00:08:49.000

If you look in 16 verse 5,

00:08:49.000 - 00:08:57.799

"So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in number". It's an exciting time to be part of the mission.

00:08:57.799 - 00:08:59.200

And from the outside,

00:08:59.200 - 00:09:00.399

everything looked great,

00:09:00.399 - 00:09:01.000

right?

00:09:01.139 - 00:09:01.799

From the outside,

00:09:01.799 - 00:09:04.600

everything looked like this must be God's plan.

00:09:04.600 - 00:09:05.600

Everything's going well.

00:09:05.600 - 00:09:07.000

We're bringing on new teammates.

00:09:07.000 - 00:09:11.000

We've got this new mission that's kind of part of the overall mission.

00:09:11.000 - 00:09:15.799

Everything's going in a positive direction.

00:09:15.799 - 00:09:22.200

But even good plans aren't always God's plans.

00:09:22.200 - 00:09:23.600

Let that sink in for just a second.

00:09:23.600 - 00:09:28.000

Even good plans aren't always God's plans.

00:09:28.000 - 00:09:35.200

Paul seems to fall into this idea that we're going to retrace our steps.

00:09:35.200 - 00:09:38.600

We're gonna go where we have already been.

00:09:38.600 - 00:09:42.799

And I want you to think about what might be wrong with that for just a second.

00:09:42.799 - 00:09:44.240

It seems like a great idea,

00:09:44.240 - 00:09:44.799

right?

00:09:44.799 - 00:09:46.000

Let's go back where we've been.

00:09:46.000 - 00:09:47.600

Let's encourage these Christians.

00:09:47.600 - 00:09:50.799

Let's share this clarification with them.

00:09:50.799 - 00:09:55.200

But what is the overall mission that we talked about in the very first week?

00:09:55.240 - 00:09:59.200

Go into all the world.

00:09:59.200 - 00:10:05.399

Paul in 1 Corinthians is gonna make the claim that his job in this process is to plant.

00:10:05.399 - 00:10:11.399

His job is to go and share the Word really for the first time in all of these different places.

00:10:11.399 - 00:10:13.070

And in this situation,

00:10:13.070 - 00:10:14.200

he's not really doing that.

00:10:14.200 - 00:10:15.000

He's going,

00:10:15.000 - 00:10:21.200

"Go into all the places that I've already been before". And it's not that that was a bad thing.

00:10:21.200 - 00:10:23.000

It's not that it wasn't a good thing.

00:10:23.000 - 00:10:26.000

Was it a good thing to go back and encourage these Christians?

00:10:26.000 - 00:10:26.600

Yes,

00:10:26.600 - 00:10:28.200

absolutely.

00:10:28.200 - 00:10:32.600

But is that what Paul had been called to do?

00:10:32.600 - 00:10:36.399

He hadn't been called to go back and do this all over again.

00:10:36.399 - 00:10:41.000

He had been called to plant - to go into all the world.

00:10:41.000 - 00:10:45.000

And so as they are working through this process,

00:10:45.000 - 00:10:47.200

they get to certain places,

00:10:47.200 - 00:10:50.200

and the Holy Spirit says what?

00:10:50.200 - 00:10:52.000

I'm not letting you in there.

00:10:52.000 - 00:10:54.000

This is not where God needs you.

00:10:54.059 - 00:10:56.799

This is not what you are supposed to be about.

00:10:56.799 - 00:11:02.000

This is not the direction that we want you to go.

00:11:02.000 - 00:11:04.000

So when you think about that idea,

00:11:04.000 - 00:11:10.000

sometimes - this is just some things I thought about this week - sometimes God says no,

00:11:10.000 - 00:11:13.399

not because you're pletely off mission.

00:11:13.399 - 00:11:17.000

He doesn't say no because what you're doing is pletely wrong.

00:11:17.000 - 00:11:21.200

Sometimes He said no because He has something greater in mind.

00:11:21.200 - 00:11:22.799

He has something bigger in mind.

00:11:22.799 - 00:11:25.000

He has something better in mind.

00:11:25.000 - 00:11:25.710

You know,

00:11:25.710 - 00:11:27.000

my plan might be good,

00:11:27.000 - 00:11:29.600

but it also might keep me comfortable.

00:11:29.600 - 00:11:30.799

My plan might be good,

00:11:30.799 - 00:11:33.399

but it also might keep me in control.

00:11:33.399 - 00:11:35.000

And my plan might be good,

00:11:35.000 - 00:11:40.600

but it might not truly accomplish what God's trying to do through me.

00:11:40.600 - 00:11:44.600

We talked about this idea of control and all this stuff last week.

00:11:44.600 - 00:11:49.200

That ended up causing Jonah to completely run away.

00:11:49.200 - 00:11:50.600

But like we did mention,

00:11:50.659 - 00:11:55.000

sometimes we can hide from God right in the middle of a ministry.

00:11:55.000 - 00:11:57.000

We can get somewhere where I'm comfortable,

00:11:57.000 - 00:11:58.399

what I'm doing seems good,

00:11:58.399 - 00:11:59.399

feels good,

00:11:59.399 - 00:12:00.799

looks good,

00:12:00.799 - 00:12:04.000

It seems to be accomplishing good things.

00:12:04.000 - 00:12:06.019

But God might be ready to look at me and go,

00:12:06.019 - 00:12:06.320

hey,

00:12:06.320 - 00:12:07.600

you're ready for more.

00:12:07.600 - 00:12:10.200

You've grown enough where you are.

00:12:10.200 - 00:12:12.000

You've done good things where you are.

00:12:12.000 - 00:12:16.799

Now I need you to continue the mission somewhere else.

00:12:16.799 - 00:12:20.200

And I think that that's exactly what happens with Paul.

00:12:20.200 - 00:12:21.059

He's like,

00:12:21.059 - 00:12:21.399

look,

00:12:21.399 - 00:12:23.800

we don't need to retrace.

00:12:23.800 - 00:12:24.600

And if you look,

00:12:24.600 - 00:12:25.799

you really don't have any,

00:12:25.799 - 00:12:27.600

you don't have any conclusive evidence of this,

00:12:27.600 - 00:12:31.000

but if you look in the direction that Barnabas goes,

00:12:31.000 - 00:12:40.599

it's almost like they're going to eventually circle back up and meet each other if they go about the same plan and go to the same places that they've been.

00:12:40.599 - 00:12:41.799

They're eventually,

00:12:41.799 - 00:12:44.200

Barnabas just basically turns left.

00:12:44.200 - 00:12:47.399

Paul heads north for a little while and then turns back left.

00:12:47.399 - 00:12:50.399

But eventually they're going to reconnect with each other.

00:12:50.399 - 00:12:53.200

So I'm going to assume,

00:12:53.200 - 00:12:59.600

my thought on this process here is that Barnabas continues the original plan.

00:12:59.600 - 00:13:01.800

He goes back and he encourages.

00:13:01.800 - 00:13:02.799

That's what he's known as,

00:13:02.799 - 00:13:03.200

right?

00:13:03.200 - 00:13:04.399

The son of encouragement.

00:13:04.399 - 00:13:07.800

He goes back and encourages these churches.

00:13:07.800 - 00:13:08.600

And God says,

00:13:08.600 - 00:13:09.200

but now Paul,

00:13:09.200 - 00:13:11.200

I need you to do what we were originally going to do.

00:13:11.200 - 00:13:16.399

And we need to go and continue to plant and go into these new places.

00:13:16.399 - 00:13:19.800

So we have this vision that es from God.

00:13:19.800 - 00:13:23.200

The vision es when he begins to what?

00:13:23.200 - 00:13:24.000

Listen,

00:13:24.000 - 00:13:29.799

God often gives us clarity when we step away from the rush of life.

00:13:29.799 - 00:13:32.199

When I think about what Paul's doing.

00:13:32.199 - 00:13:34.200

I think about the excitement of it all.

00:13:34.200 - 00:13:35.600

Meeting new people.

00:13:35.600 - 00:13:36.799

Getting to teach.

00:13:36.799 - 00:13:37.299

And he did,

00:13:37.299 - 00:13:37.850

I'm sure,

00:13:37.850 - 00:13:40.000

teach new people along the way.

00:13:40.000 - 00:13:45.000

Getting to introduce a new brother into the ministry in Timothy.

00:13:45.000 - 00:13:46.399

Going to all these places.

00:13:46.399 - 00:13:49.000

The rush of ministry.

00:13:49.000 - 00:13:51.200

The busyness of what he was doing.

00:13:51.200 - 00:13:53.600

You look at the life of Paul,

00:13:53.600 - 00:13:55.399

and except when he's in prison,

00:13:55.399 - 00:13:56.400

and even then,

00:13:56.400 - 00:13:59.799

you don't get the idea that he slowed down much.

00:13:59.799 - 00:14:00.800

He kept going.

00:14:00.800 - 00:14:01.600

He kept pushing.

00:14:01.600 - 00:14:04.600

He kept doing what he felt like he was supposed to be doing.

00:14:04.600 - 00:14:07.399

And sometimes when we're in the middle of that,

00:14:07.399 - 00:14:11.799

we lose our connection to listening to God.

00:14:11.799 - 00:14:12.810

Because again,

00:14:12.810 - 00:14:14.599

what I'm doing seems good.

00:14:14.680 - 00:14:17.799

What I'm doing seems like it's producing good things.

00:14:17.799 - 00:14:20.399

And so Paul keeps trying to do these good things,

00:14:20.399 - 00:14:24.200

and God just shuts everything down.

00:14:24.200 - 00:14:26.599

He just shuts everything down so that,

00:14:26.599 - 00:14:28.020

hopefully,

00:14:28.020 - 00:14:29.200

I believe,

00:14:29.200 - 00:14:33.799

that Paul will listen to him.

00:14:33.799 - 00:14:36.399

I also want you to think about this.

00:14:36.399 - 00:14:38.800

When we e into these moments,

00:14:38.800 - 00:14:40.200

and the doors close,

00:14:40.200 - 00:14:42.600

especially when we're in ministry,

00:14:42.779 - 00:14:46.200

and the doors may have a great idea.

00:14:46.200 - 00:14:47.399

You may have a great direction.

00:14:47.399 - 00:14:50.200

We may be involved in a great ministry,

00:14:50.200 - 00:14:50.800

and all of a sudden,

00:14:50.800 - 00:14:52.600

it just seems like it stops.

00:14:52.600 - 00:14:55.799

Like what was working quits working.

00:14:55.799 - 00:14:59.200

This great idea just can't get up off the ground.

00:14:59.200 - 00:15:02.600

It's easy to get in those moments and get flustered.

00:15:02.600 - 00:15:04.200

It's easy to get frustrated.

00:15:04.200 - 00:15:05.799

It's easy to get mad.

00:15:05.799 - 00:15:08.600

It's easy to look at maybe the people that are in charge
and be like,

00:15:08.600 - 00:15:08.799

"Well,

00:15:08.799 - 00:15:11.000

if y'all were better leaders "or better ministers,

00:15:11.000 - 00:15:11.799

this would work.

00:15:11.799 - 00:15:13.599

"This is a great idea.

00:15:13.599 - 00:15:14.149

"You know,

00:15:14.149 - 00:15:14.799

this worked for,

00:15:14.799 - 00:15:17.000

"we've been doing this here for 15 years,

00:15:17.000 - 00:15:17.580

"and all of a sudden,

00:15:17.580 - 00:15:18.200

it's not working.

00:15:18.200 - 00:15:19.600

"It's got to be somebody's fault.

00:15:19.600 - 00:15:20.220

"The new guy,

00:15:20.220 - 00:15:21.200

it's Josh's fault.

00:15:21.200 - 00:15:23.399

"It'll always work until Josh got here,

00:15:23.399 - 00:15:25.600

"so it must be whose fault?

00:15:25.600 - 00:15:29.600

"Josh's fault". And preachers are fired for stuff like that.

00:15:29.600 - 00:15:37.200

But I think what this tells us is that it might not be anybody's fault when something that has always worked quits working ministry-wise.

00:15:37.200 - 00:15:39.269

It might be God going,

00:15:39.269 - 00:15:40.999

"We're through with that.

00:15:40.999 - 00:15:42.599

"It's time for us to do something else.

00:15:42.599 - 00:15:43.999

"It's time for a new direction.

00:15:43.999 - 00:15:45.599

"It's time for a new ministry.

00:15:45.599 - 00:15:52.600

"You have grown and learned and accomplished "all that I ever planned on you growing and learning "and accomplishing from that.

00:15:52.600 - 00:15:57.000

"Now it's time to take those things "and apply them to the next thing.

00:15:57.000 - 00:16:02.199

"Take these people who have been followers "and have grown into leaders "and then let them be leaders.

00:16:02.199 - 00:16:08.799

"We don't need them to just be followers forever". And so sometimes when we run up against the wall,

00:16:09.000 - 00:16:11.600

let's not get frustrated and let's not blame people.

00:16:11.600 - 00:16:13.000

Let's not quit.

00:16:13.000 - 00:16:15.399

Let's pray.

00:16:15.399 - 00:16:27.200

And let's step away from the rush of it all and really key in to what Jesus and God and the Holy Spirit is trying to reach out and tell us.

00:16:27.200 - 00:16:27.999

And that's what he did.

00:16:27.999 - 00:16:29.399

The Holy Spirit came.

00:16:29.399 - 00:16:33.000

He gave him a vision and he listened.

00:16:33.000 - 00:16:33.999

And he said,

00:16:33.999 - 00:16:40.799

"God is calling me somewhere else". So where is God calling him?

00:16:40.799 - 00:16:47.399

Let's jump down into verse 10.

00:16:47.399 - 00:16:49.600

"After Paul had seen the vision,

00:16:49.600 - 00:16:51.799

"we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia,

00:16:51.799 - 00:16:55.400

"concluding that God had called us "to preach the gospel to them.

00:16:55.400 - 00:16:56.769

"From Troas,

00:16:56.769 - 00:17:02.000

he put out to sea "and sailed straight toward Smarthrace.

00:17:02.000 - 00:17:04.599

"And the next day we went to Nepalis.

00:17:04.660 - 00:17:07.000

"From there we traveled to Philippi,

00:17:07.000 - 00:17:11.200

"a Roman colony and a leading city "of the district of Macedonia.

00:17:11.200 - 00:17:13.200

"We stayed there several days.

00:17:13.200 - 00:17:15.220

"On the Sabbath day,

00:17:15.220 - 00:17:21.200

we went outside the city gate "to the river where we expected to find a place of prayer.

00:17:21.200 - 00:17:25.000

"We sat down and began to speak "to the women who had gathered there.

00:17:25.000 - 00:17:29.599

"One of these listening was a woman "from the city of Thyatira named Lydia,

00:17:29.599 - 00:17:31.599

"a dealer in purple cloth.

00:17:31.599 - 00:17:33.200

"She was a worshiper of God.

00:17:33.200 - 00:17:37.000

"The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

00:17:37.000 - 00:17:39.799

"When she and the members of her household were baptized,

00:17:39.799 - 00:17:41.799

"she invited us to her home.

00:17:41.799 - 00:17:45.599

"If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said,

00:17:45.599 - 00:17:53.200

"e and stay at my house," and she persuaded us".
Faithfulness opens hearts.

00:17:53.200 - 00:17:55.000

I think that's the biggest thing here.

00:17:55.000 - 00:17:58.000

Paul's trip started out as a homeing,

00:17:58.000 - 00:17:58.700

if you will,

00:17:58.700 - 00:17:59.200

okay?

00:17:59.200 - 00:18:01.000

Paul's trip started out as a homeing.

00:18:01.000 - 00:18:04.799

We're gonna go back to all these places and enjoy the relationships.

00:18:04.799 - 00:18:06.529

Homeings are great times,

00:18:06.529 - 00:18:06.799

right?

00:18:06.799 - 00:18:13.799

When you get to reconnect with people and talk about old times and share old stories and remember the good old days,

00:18:13.799 - 00:18:17.200

that's always a fun thing to do,

00:18:17.200 - 00:18:19.700

but that's not what God wanted,

00:18:19.700 - 00:18:20.400

okay?

00:18:20.400 - 00:18:23.400

So God says we need to go back and start planning.

00:18:23.400 - 00:18:26.000

We need to get back to the mission.

00:18:26.000 - 00:18:32.000

The Lord opens up Paul's heart once again to doing what he has called him to do,

00:18:32.000 - 00:18:35.000

and because of Paul's faithfulness,

00:18:35.000 - 00:18:37.599

we end up in a pletely new place,

00:18:37.599 - 00:18:40.000

in a pletely new situation,

00:18:40.000 - 00:18:43.000

in a place where more people are able to be saved,

00:18:43.000 - 00:18:46.200

where other people's hearts are able to be opened,

00:18:46.200 - 00:18:50.200

and where other people be followers of God,

00:18:50.200 - 00:18:55.599

and this be a launching pad for the church in Philippi
and the letters that we get from there.

00:18:55.599 - 00:18:58.400

There's a lot about this church that we know,

00:18:59.410 - 00:19:00.740

but the key is this,

00:19:00.740 - 00:19:03.599

when we follow God's plan,

00:19:03.599 - 00:19:07.400

he prepares the ground ahead of us.

00:19:07.400 - 00:19:08.799

When we follow God's plan,

00:19:08.799 - 00:19:10.400

when we key into what God wants,

00:19:10.400 - 00:19:13.799

when we listen to the direction that God wants us to go in,

00:19:13.799 - 00:19:15.799

he's going to lead us to a place,

00:19:15.799 - 00:19:17.119

into a situation,

00:19:17.119 - 00:19:18.400

into a ministry,

00:19:18.400 - 00:19:19.559

into something,

00:19:19.559 - 00:19:20.200

right?

00:19:20.200 - 00:19:26.000

That we're gonna lead us into a place that he has prepared for us to minister into,

00:19:26.000 - 00:19:28.500

and if he's prepared that place for us,

00:19:28.500 - 00:19:30.900

then that ministry is going to be successful.

00:19:30.900 - 00:19:33.900

Now that success can look like a lot of different things.

00:19:33.900 - 00:19:36.799

Success is not just one thing.

00:19:36.799 - 00:19:39.400

Success can be a lot of different things,

00:19:39.400 - 00:19:40.799

but if God leads us there,

00:19:40.799 - 00:19:43.799

we're going to find success in those things.

00:19:43.799 - 00:19:46.599

Our job is not to force it,

00:19:46.599 - 00:19:49.700

it's just to be faithful with what he's given us.

00:19:49.700 - 00:19:51.599

So what does that mean for us?

00:19:51.599 - 00:19:54.799

It means that God might redirect your plans.

00:19:54.799 - 00:19:56.900

God might redirect your plans,

00:19:56.950 - 00:19:57.650

but remember,

00:19:57.650 - 00:19:59.799

it's not because he thinks you're doing wrong,

00:19:59.799 - 00:20:02.619

but because he's got something bigger,

00:20:02.619 - 00:20:03.000

better,

00:20:03.000 - 00:20:04.700

more important for you to do.

00:20:04.700 - 00:20:10.500

It also means that we have to be sensitive to the Spirit of God.

00:20:10.500 - 00:20:13.500

We have to open our hearts to being led.

00:20:13.500 - 00:20:16.500

We have to believe that the Holy Spirit is still active,

00:20:16.500 - 00:20:19.099

that the Holy Spirit is still relevant,

00:20:19.099 - 00:20:25.700

that the Holy Spirit is still able to lead us and direct us and push us in this direction and push us in that direction.

00:20:25.700 - 00:20:25.970

Now,

00:20:25.970 - 00:20:28.200

I don't believe the Holy Spirit's going to give us a vision.

00:20:28.200 - 00:20:31.599

I don't believe that that's really something that happens,

00:20:31.599 - 00:20:34.400

but he can give us these feelings that,

00:20:34.400 - 00:20:34.660

hey,

00:20:34.660 - 00:20:35.900

this is where I need to go.

00:20:35.900 - 00:20:38.099

My heart is hurting in this direction.

00:20:38.099 - 00:20:42.500

That might be the Holy Spirit convicting me that I need to be ministering into this direction.

00:20:42.500 - 00:20:44.299

He might pletely shut a door,

00:20:44.299 - 00:20:46.500

and no matter how hard I bang up against it,

00:20:46.500 - 00:20:47.799

it's not going to open.

00:20:47.799 - 00:20:54.299

I need to realize that that might be the Holy Spirit preventing me from doing what I think is the plan.

00:20:54.339 - 00:20:58.200

But then understand that if God shuts the door,

00:20:58.200 - 00:21:02.400

he's going to show us another one to walk through.

00:21:02.400 - 00:21:04.200

I also think this is important with this story.

00:21:04.200 - 00:21:08.200

Never underestimate what God can do through one invitation,

00:21:08.200 - 00:21:10.029

one conversation,

00:21:10.029 - 00:21:12.799

one act of faithfulness.

00:21:12.799 - 00:21:16.599

These group of ladies had been gathering together to pray,

00:21:16.599 - 00:21:18.599

to follow God.

00:21:18.599 - 00:21:18.920

You know,

00:21:18.920 - 00:21:19.599

they'd been asking,

00:21:19.599 - 00:21:20.210

I'm sure,

00:21:20.210 - 00:21:22.099

for someone to e and share.

00:21:22.099 - 00:21:23.400

That's what this vision was.

00:21:23.430 - 00:21:24.400

e over here and help us.

00:21:24.400 - 00:21:25.000

We're waiting.

00:21:25.000 - 00:21:26.000

We're looking.

00:21:26.000 - 00:21:28.599

We're wanting these conversations.

00:21:28.599 - 00:21:31.099

And Paul and Timothy and Silas,

00:21:31.099 - 00:21:34.500

they go and they sit down and they begin to have these conversations,

00:21:34.500 - 00:21:35.819

just individual,

00:21:35.819 - 00:21:37.599

personal conversations,

00:21:37.599 - 00:21:40.700

and that leads to one conversion.

00:21:40.700 - 00:21:55.400

That leads to one conversion that then begins to open the door of an entire continent to save people for Jesus and leads to the church that we read about in this Bible in several different places in the church at Philippi.

00:21:55.400 - 00:22:02.900

So never underestimate what your one conversation can do in the grand scheme of things with God.

00:22:02.900 - 00:22:07.900

The mission continues when we follow the Spirit and not just our own script.

00:22:07.900 - 00:22:15.400

So what's our challenge as we walk out of this particular passage and this particular text this morning?

00:22:15.400 - 00:22:19.500

I want you to be looking maybe for your own Macedonia moment.

00:22:19.500 - 00:22:20.259

Okay,

00:22:20.259 - 00:22:27.700

look for the people or places that God is putting in your path to reach out and to share.

00:22:27.700 - 00:22:33.200

Say yes to God even when it looks like it's not part of your plan.

00:22:33.200 - 00:22:43.900

Be willing to open up and say yes to Him and let Him lead you and let Him control the narrative of your story because our mission starts here,

00:22:43.900 - 00:22:46.500

but it doesn't necessarily end here.

00:22:46.500 - 00:22:49.299

You have no idea where God's going to take you from here.

00:22:49.319 - 00:22:59.000

This is your launching pad and it can take you to so many different places in the kingdom to serve Him if we allow the Spirit to lead us in proper ways.

00:22:59.000 - 00:23:03.099

Let's close with a word of prayer.

00:23:03.099 - 00:23:03.390

God,

00:23:03.390 - 00:23:07.200

we thank You for the chance to just be in Your presence this morning.

00:23:07.200 - 00:23:16.000

We thank You for the opportunity to study this particular story of Paul and Silas and Timothy and Barnabas and John Mark,

00:23:16.000 - 00:23:16.299

God,

00:23:16.299 - 00:23:23.000

and we're so grateful for their willingness then to serve
You wholeheartedly and to listen to Your call.

00:23:23.000 - 00:23:23.500

And God,

00:23:23.500 - 00:23:25.799

we pray that we have the same conviction in our life,

00:23:25.799 - 00:23:29.000

that we have the same want in our life,

00:23:29.000 - 00:23:33.500

the same direction in our life to want to serve and listen
to You.

00:23:33.500 - 00:23:35.190

Help us to seek Your will,

00:23:35.190 - 00:23:35.700

God.

00:23:35.700 - 00:23:43.000

Help us to look and to pray about it and to listen for You
in our life.

00:23:43.000 - 00:23:48.299

Help us to not get frustrated when it seems like the things
we're trying to do aren't working out.

00:23:48.299 - 00:23:51.900

Help us to realize that maybe You're just leading us in a
different direction.

00:23:51.900 - 00:23:55.099

Give us the willingness and the humility,

00:23:55.099 - 00:23:55.599

God,

00:23:55.599 - 00:24:00.500

to accept that and to accept that we might be doing good,

00:24:00.500 - 00:24:04.299

but we could be doing so much better listening to Your
voice.

00:24:04.299 - 00:24:04.710

God,

00:24:04.710 - 00:24:06.500

we thank You for Jesus.

00:24:06.500 - 00:24:08.200

We thank You for His sacrifice.

00:24:08.200 - 00:24:12.000

We thank You for His willingness to die for us.

00:24:12.000 - 00:24:16.799

And we pray that we never take that sacrifice for granted,

00:24:16.799 - 00:24:23.799

that we always live in the shadow of the cross and we share that message on a daily basis with everyone that we can.

00:24:23.799 - 00:24:24.250

Bless us,

00:24:24.250 - 00:24:24.369

God,

00:24:24.369 - 00:24:26.200

it's in Your Son's name we pray.