

## Putting Feet to Your Faith

### Acts 16:1-18

- After the Jerusalem conference in **Ch 15** came the first doctrinal statement of the **N.T.** church concerning the gospel of Grace, where it was determined that Gentiles did not have to follow the Law of Moses and become circumcised, neither did they have to become Jewish in order to be saved, they only need to believe in the Lord Jesus as their Messiah and the forgiver of their sins. This was not going to be readily received or accepted unless both Peter and James agreed to these truths which they did, and it united both Jew and Gentile alike, this news prompted Paul to look ahead and decide to go on his second missionary journey here in **Ch 16**.

### V1-18

- **V1-2** Paul and Silas arrives in Derbe > where he had great success on his first missionary **14:20-21**, and in Lystra > where he'd been stoned to death and miraculously revived, so both these places have interesting memories for Paul. You'd think when Paul was putting his itinerary together for the **2<sup>nd</sup>** journey that he would find a convenient excuse to avoid this city, but self preservation was not in his vocabulary, to Paul tough terrain, hard hearts, difficult people, were not meant to avoid but to seed, to plant, to water, that God may give the increase for His glory.
- It's here where he meets a young man named "**Timothy**" who would become his protégé; he is a man of mixed heritage and a spiritually divided home, having a Jewish mother who is a believer, and a Greek gentile father who is an unbeliever. But through his mother "**Eunice**" and grandmother "**Lois**" he has come to faith and this young man already had a sterling reputation among the believers, and soon would become Paul's constant companion, one who Paul would say was "**his true son in the faith**" > **1Tim 1:2**, one that Paul said was "**like minded in the faith having the same character of heart**" > **Philip 2:19-22**, what an endorsement and testimony.
- **V3-5** this shows no worker in God's Kingdom is irreplaceable as Paul encourages Timothy to join him replacing Barnabas, and then has him circumcised but not for the sake of salvation as that has already been decided in chapter 15, but so his testimony and ability to share won't be hindered > **1Cor 9:19-22**- this was only because he was already Jewish, but when the Jews wanted to have Titus circumcised Paul forbade it because Titus was a gentile > **Gal 2:3-4**.
- **V6-9** after visiting the churches he had founded Paul wanted to enter new territory for the Lord and go to the East into Asia Minor and Bithynia but the Lord closed the door. This is when we have to be flexible and trust the Lord's leading so instead of heading East into Asia Minor the Lord takes him west into Europe, and because of his obedience he sees a vision of a man telling him to come to Macedonia and Paul didn't hesitate to answer this call for help > **Acts 26:19**.

- This shows that God knows exactly where we are and He will tell us exactly where to go, but we must be willing to wait on His call and His direction, as it has to be about His will and not our way. **V10-13** in **V4,6,7,8**, its “**they**” now we see the pronoun “**we**” as Luke has joined the evangelistic team as he’s the one who wrote the book of Acts. Since they didn’t find a synagogue they go where the people are and find some women holding their own Sabbath meeting so joining them he begins to preach the gospel and a woman named Lydia hears it and gives her life to the Lord and it ignites some interesting things because of it.
- **1<sup>st</sup>** she’s from Thyatira which is in Asia Minor the place God forbade Paul to go, **2<sup>nd</sup>** she’s a successful business woman as a seller of purple, **3<sup>rd</sup>** she’s a gentile who openly worships without fear of persecution. This woman has been brought all the way to Europe, but not to merely make money, it’s to get saved, as she’s the first recognized convert in Europe, later a church arises from Thyatira and its one of the seven churches mentioned in Revelation. When the Lord opens a heart there is no resistance left to obedience, she immediately gets baptized, she invites them into her home, and she begs them to stay so that she can hear more of the truth wow!
- **V16-18** when God is moving the enemy is lurking, never think that the enemy is not in the midst of hearing the Word, in fact as we see he’ll agree with the word if it will lead to distraction. Although she spoke truth it takes the attention off the message of Jesus and puts it on her as she begins to preach for Paul and he’s had enough and casts out the Demon that was inside her.
- The enemy will speak truth just long enough to draw attention off of where God wants and unto what he wants, and once he’s finished no doubt he will eventually mixed in a lot of lies. What’s amazing is this girl who once was used by the Devil is now a child of the Lord but how will those who have benefitted from her spiritual abuse react to her finally becoming whole?