

The Different Doors in Ministry.

Acts 16:1-40

V1

- Paul and Silas are beginning a new evangelistic work for God. **Ch 15:41** tell us the churches where Paul had previously ministered were encouraged by his presence. Now Paul and Silas find a young disciple named Timothy who apparently had been saved on their first missionary journey.

V2-3

- We read some interesting tidbits about Timothy and his background.
 - 1) He was of mixed parentage- Mother was Jewish, Father was Greek.
 - 2) His mother was a believer.
 - 3) He had a good reputation.
 - 4) He was uncircumcised.
- You may ask why was this information important enough to be included in the Bible. God uses our past to reach different people on different levels of society.
 - 1) Because he was part Greek this would aid the evangelistic outreach to the gentiles.
 - 2) By following his mom example and becoming a Christian he was an example that Jesus is Lord over any obstacles you may face even cross cultural prejudice.
 - 3) By having a good testimony he could be used to minister to both Jew and Gentile.
 - 4) Timothy willingness to submit to being circumcised even as an adult in order to meet Jewish custom proved to be a tremendous conversation piece for the gospel.
- Timothy was perfect for this evangelistic team, by being both Jew and Gentile Timothy had access to both cultures. This shows the wisdom of God, for Timothy became John Marks replacement because Silas took Barnabas place.
- God works in his perfect timing for this was the beginning of a long and spiritually prosperous relationship between Paul and Timothy.
 - A) Timothy was in his late teens to early twenties here when he first goes off with Paul and Silas.
 - B) Timothy becomes Paul right hand man representing him in spiritual matters.
1Corinthians 4:14-17.
 - C) Timothy is referred to as Paul spiritual son. **1Timothy 1:2-2Timothy 1:2-2:1**

V4-5

So Paul and the ministry team is set, Church policies are delivered to the people and the result growth and enthusiasm. Time to move on so far all has been well doors are open people are blessed gospel is spreading.

V6-10

This is very important we must not miss this.

- The team is stopped from preaching the gospel in this particular region. In fact the word used is (Koluo- which means to keep from, or hinder). The grammar suggests that they tried to speak but was restrained or held back think how frustrating that must have been.
- Then after moving on they attempt to share but encounter additional closed doors verse 7 says the Spirit in the Greek it is the Spirit of Jesus that shut them down.
- Why? Well verse 9 tells us often God closes doors in our lives and we see them through human eyes which lead to frustration. Here we see that there was a bigger picture 3 things to take note of.
 - 1) Often the Lord has to stop us in order to turn us in the direction He wants us to go.
 - 2) When a good door closes, a better door opens.
 - 3) Your responsibility is to do your best and commit the rest if you have done all you can do and nothing that's God.

V11-15

- **Notice 2 things 1) after being sensitive to the Holy Spirit. 2) The team is also strategic with their movements.**
- **V11** tell us that somebody has joined the team notice the we remember who wrote this book Luke he is with Paul now. There must be **10** Jewish males who are heads of households in order to have a synagogue, So Paul finds out where the people are, again don't wait for the people go to them.
- Lydia is another example just as Cornelious in **Ch10** of a Gentile who had received some instruction concerning the worship of God but was not saved. But God had done a work in her heart and prepared her to receive the gospel.
- When someone is ready to be saved you will not have to fight with them, notice **V14** says she wanted to hear. **Acts 13:48** After salvation there will always be some kind of fruit.(**Luke 19:1-10**) Lydia was wealthy from selling purple which was a lucrative trade she had a large enough house to have church in **V40**.

V16-18

- Ministry now turn hazardous to Paul and some of the ministry teams health because when you help people to enter into fellowship with God, attitudes and lifestyles change therefore causing friction with those who benefited from that sinful behavior.

- Case in point a girl who is possessed with a demon that tells the future. She is following Paul and causing distraction. **2** things here.
- 1) The demon possessed girl meets them not the other way around. **Mark 5:1-2**
- 2) The Demon spoke truth, but was shouting when there should be silence thus bringing attention on the girl and off the truth which the disciples were speaking.
- Paul says enough notice she had been doing this for a while verse 18 this tells me that before you attempt to deal with Satan you better know how and most importantly when.

V19-24

- We are going to see **3** things in this section of Acts > **1ST - physical and emotional pain.** V16 says we Luke is still there but V19 says only Paul and Silas were imprisoned when you mess with people money watch out. Seized and dragged implies a violent capture, then beaten, finally put in prison what a reception in the first European city where they preached the gospel.
- **2ND** - look at the response of Paul and Silas----- **Prayer** and **praise**. Notice the other prisoners are listening the easiest thing to do would have been to complain and murmur saying why God must you torture me when all I want to do is your will. **Romans 8:28**

V26-34

- **3RD - deliverance and salvation** God had a plan and it included Paul and Silas receiving a beating for the gospel sake so this prison guard and his family could here the gospel and be saved. Notice **V31** it gives tremendous insight.
- A) **V30** the jailor asks what to do for salvation, **V31** says only believe in Jesus notice there is no believe and speak in tongues, or believe and get baptized. In fact the only and comes after salvation.
- B) When the head of the family surrenders to God it causes spiritual tremors to go through the whole house. Paul says not only will his family wife and kids but servants also would get saved this is why the Devil works so hard to stop men from being the spiritual leaders in their homes.
- Also notice when the jailor gathers his whole house to hear the gospel how good fruit follows immediately **V32-33**.

V36-40

- After the Lord is finished his work it is time for them to go but Paul is going to have a little fun. Because Paul was a roman citizen and Silas it was illegal for them to have received a beating without a trial.

- Paul let's them know about his Roman citizenship and now the leaders are afraid so Paul receives a semi apology then is asked to leave, but not before encouraging the church. Finally in closing we read how.
- 1) God brought Timothy into the ministry team with Paul and Silas, which was His intention instead of Mark.
- 2) The Holy Spirit blocked all ministry paths until the right door opened.
- 3) Lydia is saved after the Lord gave Paul a vision as to where to take the gospel.
- 4) Paul and Silas are imprisoned for the gospel sake but God uses it as an opportunity to supernaturally speak to the Philippian Jailer.
- 5) The Philippian Jailer and his household are saved and the church at Philippians is started in Lydia house.
- God's timing and victories are always perfect. Amen