

## The Acts of the Apostles, Part 34: Doors & Windows

Key Scripture: Acts 16:5-15

So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

### **The Macedonian Call**

6 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. 7 And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. 8 So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

### **The Conversion of Lydia**

11 So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. 13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. 14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. 15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

### **Doors & Windows**

- ❖ A Good Plan
  - It happens to everyone!

### **GPS: God's Preparation System**

- ❖ Paul's Plan
  - Paul and company: consisting of Paul, Silias, and Timothy
- ❖ Shut Door - Open Window
  - "When God closes a door, He opens a window."
- ❖ Party of "WE"
  - Acts 16:10

- “And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

### God’s Plan

- ❖ God’s Plan vs Your “Good” Plan
  - When we want to “help” God’s plan.
- ❖ The Truth About Knowing
  - Getting “in the way”...

### Lesson from the Fish

- ❖ Jonah 1:1-3
  - “Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” 3 But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.”
- ❖ Jonah 3:4-5, 10
  - “Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, ‘Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!’ 5 And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.”
  - “When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, **God relented** of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.”
- ❖ Jonah 4:1-3
  - “But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was **angry**. 2 And he prayed to the Lord and said, ‘O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That

is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. 3 Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

### **Crossing the Sea**

- ❖ Paul and Company cross the Aegean Sea and enter Macedonia on the European Continent.
- ❖ Lydia
  - Lydia believed and was baptized.
- ❖ Hindsight
  - Making Sense of the Journey

### **Doors & Windows**

- ❖ “When God closes a door, He opens a window.”
  - Or...
- ❖ Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV
  - “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”