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Acts 15:36–16:40

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Paul's Second Missionary Journey

Segment One: Antioch to Derbe to Lystra (15:36-16:5)

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Segment One: Antioch to Derbe to Lystra (15:36-16:5)

- John Mark?

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PAUL AND BARNABAS PART COMPANY

³⁶After some time had passed, Paul said to Barnabas, “Let’s go back and visit the brothers and sisters in every town where we have preached the word of the Lord and see how they’re doing.” ³⁷Barnabas wanted to take along John who was called Mark. ³⁸But Paul insisted that they should not take along this man who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone on with them to the work.

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PAUL AND BARNABAS PART COMPANY

³⁹They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed off to Cyprus. ⁴⁰But Paul chose Silas and departed, after being commended by the brothers and sisters to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹He traveled through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

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- John Mark?
- Timothy!

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PAUL SELECTS TIMOTHY

¹Paul went on to Derbe and Lystra, where there was a disciple named Timothy, the son of a believing Jewish woman, but his father was a Greek. ²The brothers and sisters at Lystra and Iconium spoke highly of him. ³Paul wanted Timothy to go with him; so he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, since they all knew that his father was a Greek.

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PAUL SELECTS TIMOTHY

⁴As they traveled through the towns, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem for the people to observe. ⁵So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

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Galations 2:1-5

Paul Defends His Gospel at Jerusalem

¹Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also. ²I went up according to a revelation and presented to them the gospel I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those recognized as leaders. I wanted to be sure I was not running, and had not been running, in vain.

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Galations 2:1-5

³But not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek. ⁴This matter arose because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus in order to enslave us. ⁵But we did not give up and submit to these people for even a moment, so that the truth of the gospel would be preserved for you.

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1 Corinthians 9:19-23

¹⁹Although I am free from all and not anyone's slave, I have made myself a slave to everyone, in order to win more people. ²⁰To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win Jews; to those under the law, like one under the law—though I myself am not under the law—to win those under the law. ²¹To those who are without the law, like one without the law—though I am not without God's law but under the law of Christ—to win those without the law.

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1 Corinthians 9:19-23

²²To the weak I became weak, in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some. ²³Now I do all this because of the gospel, so that I may share in the blessings.

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EVANGELIZATION OF EUROPE

⁶They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia; they had been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.

⁷When they came to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸Passing by Mysia they went down to Troas. ⁹During the night Paul had a vision in which a Macedonian man was standing and pleading with him, "Cross over to Macedonia and help us!" ¹⁰After he had seen the vision, we immediately made efforts to set out for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

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- Lydia

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LYDIA'S CONVERSION

¹¹From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, the next day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, a Roman colony and a leading city of the district of Macedonia. We stayed in that city for several days. ¹³On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate by the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and spoke to the women gathered there.

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LYDIA'S CONVERSION

¹⁴A God-fearing woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, was listening. The Lord opened her heart to respond to what Paul was saying. ¹⁵After she and her household were baptized, she urged us, "If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

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PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON

¹⁶Once, as we were on our way to prayer, a slave girl met us who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She made a large profit for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷As she followed Paul and us she cried out, "These men, who are proclaiming to you a way of salvation, are the servants of the Most High God." ¹⁸She did this for many days.

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PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON

Paul was greatly annoyed. Turning to the spirit, he said, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!” And it came out right away.

¹⁹When her owners realized that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

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1. Reason (20-24)

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²⁰Bringing them before the chief magistrates, they said, “These men are seriously disturbing our city. They are Jews ²¹and are promoting customs that are not legal for us as Romans to adopt or practice.”

²²The crowd joined in the attack against them, and the chief magistrates stripped off their clothes and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³After they had severely flogged them, they threw them in jail, ordering the jailer to guard them carefully.

²⁴Receiving such an order, he put them into the inner prison and secured their feet in the stocks.

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 1. Reason (20-24)
 2. Rescue (25-27)

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A MIDNIGHT OF DELIVERANCE

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

²⁶Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains came loose.

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 3. Redemption (28-33)

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²⁷When the jailer woke up and saw the doors of the prison standing open, he drew his sword and was going to kill himself, since he thought the prisoners had escaped.

²⁸But Paul called out in a loud voice, “Don’t harm yourself, because we’re all here!”

²⁹The jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰He escorted them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

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³¹They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” ³²And they spoke the word of the Lord to him along with everyone in his house. ³³He took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds. Right away he and all his family were baptized.

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 4. Restoration (34-39)

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³⁴He brought them into his house, set a meal before them, and rejoiced because he had come to believe in God with his entire household.

AN OFFICIAL APOLOGY

³⁵When daylight came, the chief magistrates sent the police to say, "Release those men."

³⁶The jailer reported these words to Paul: "The magistrates have sent orders for you to be released. So come out now and go in peace."

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³⁷But Paul said to them, “They beat us in public without a trial, although we are Roman citizens, and threw us in jail. And now are they going to send us away secretly? Certainly not! On the contrary, let them come themselves and escort us out.”

³⁸The police reported these words to the magistrates. They were afraid when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens. ³⁹So they came to appease them, and escorting them from prison, they urged them to leave town. ⁴⁰After leaving the jail, they came to Lydia’s house, where they saw and encouraged the brothers and sisters, and departed.

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