

Acts Chapter 16 Second Missionary Journey

Love in Truth

- **Gospel of Grace Confirmed:** Council in Jerusalem
- **Letter brought to new converts in Antioch:** People rejoice
 - **Paul:** Let's go back and visit the churches we planted
 - **Barnabas:** Let's take John Mark
 - Paul and Barnabas separate:
 - Barnabas takes John Mark
 - Paul takes Silas on 2nd Missionary Journey

Acts 15:40 ...Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. 41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

- **From Syria and Cilicia to "Galatian Country"**
 1. Problem of Judaizers. Legalist. Keeper of the Law?
 2. Letter to Galatians:
 - Harsh condemnation of Legalism
 - Reaffirmation of **Gospel of Grace of God**

**Paul will not back down. He will not give up. He will pour out his life for Christ.
Second Missionary Journey begins!**

I. Enter Timothy

1 Then [Paul] came to Derbe and Lystra.

- Derbe and Lystra
- **Acts 14:** First Missionary Journey
 1. **Paul and Barnabas in Lystra:**
 - God uses the boys to heal a man crippled from birth
 - Barnabas/Paul worshiped as god's; i.e. Zeus and Hermes
 - Angry Jews from Antioch bring trouble and turn people against them
 2. Stone Paul and drag him out of the city for dead
 3. Disciples gather round Paul, gets up and goes back into the city
 4. Next day he departs with Barnabas to **Derbe**.
 5. **Strengthening the Converts...**

Acts 14:21 ...when they had preached the gospel to that city [Derbe] and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." 23 So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

- **5 Years later Second Missionary Journey:** Paul back to see how they are doing

1b And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. 2 He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.

- **Introducing Timothy**

1. Paul led him to the Lord on 1st trip!
2. Paul knew Tim's mother and grandmother
3. Mother was Jewish; Father Greek
4. Well spoken of in his home town
5. NT 1st and 2nd Timothy are letters written by Paul to Timothy

I Timothy 4: 12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

3 Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.

- Paul impressed. Timothy Circumcised

"By Jewish law Timothy was a Jew, because he was the son of Jewish mother, but because he was uncircumcised he was technically an apostate Jew. If Paul wished to maintain his links with the synagogue, he could not be seen to countenance apostasy." [Bruce]

1 Corinthians 9:19 ...though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; 20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law...

Paul would do things for the sake of love that he would not do for the sake of trying to please God through legalism. [Guzic]

4 And as **they** went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem.

- **They:** Paul, Silas and Timothy
- **Delivered Jerusalem Decree** to believing Gentiles from Ch. 15.
 1. Abstain from food offered to idols
 2. Abstain from eating blood
 3. Abstain from things strangled
 4. Abstain from sexual immortality
 - Rejoice in the Lord
 - Dive into in the things of the Lord

5 So the churches were **strengthened in the faith**, and increased in number daily.

- **Strengthened in Faith:**

Faith is not some weak and pitiful emotion, but is strong and vigorous confidence built on the fact that God is holy love. And even though you cannot see Him right now and cannot understand what He is doing, you know Him. God is disciplining us to get us into this central place of power. [Oswald Chambers May 8]

To believe God's Word and Live like it! Place of Power and Victory

- Churches that grow strong in faith will naturally increase in numbers

SUMMARY: Enter Timothy: Barnabas goes separate way. Timothy joins Paul and Silas

II. The Macedonian Call

6 Now when **they** had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.

- **Forbidden by the Holy Spirit** to preach in Asia?
 1. Right motives... wrong timing
 2. Not permitted how?
 - Prophetic word
 - Holy Spirit speaking to mind and hearts
 - Simply by circumstances
- Not permitted at this time to preach the Word to **Asia** [Turkey]

7 After they had come to Mysia, they **tried to go** into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.

- **Tired to go** to Bithynia: Again...Not permitted by the Spirit

Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.

- Some thing will seem like a no-brainer

James 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, **"If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."**

- We don't walk by logic we walk by faith

2 Corinthians 5:7 ...we walk by faith, not by sight.

- Looked like the right way to go but Paul forbidden to go **North, South and East.**
 1. Thank God Brother Charles is going East to Nepal [7.3 and Tokyo 6.8]
- To Paul the Spirit says **"Go west young man, go west"**

Actually, Paul didn't know where he was going until he was on his way!

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet . **And a light to my path.**

- Not a spotlight or flashlight but a lantern at our feet
- **What is your vision for the church?** I don't know yet

*Now brother Paul, do you mean that the great Apostle to the Gentiles doesn't know where he is going next? Surely you must know the will of God for your life. My, I've read so many books on that subject-its too bad Paul didn't have one of those books with him at that time! Paul does not know the will of God. Why? **Because the Spirit of God is leading him.** [JVM]*

- **Following the Spirit of God** is a vital, moving, exciting way to live:
- **Opposite of a rut**, i.e. a casket with the ends kicked out

John 3:8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

Paul didn't set out to go to Troas. It was at least the third choice for him. But it was the Holy Spirit's plan to lead him there. Paul, beautifully responsive to the Holy Spirit, is willing to lay down his will and plans for the direction that the Holy Spirit brings. Paul is being guided by hindrance. The Holy Spirit often guides as much by the closing of doors as He does by the opening of doors. [Guzic]

- **Troas:** Moving from continent of Asia to continent of Europe
- Paul's group will be the first to evangelize Europe

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

- **Vision:** Awoken in the night to see a sight/hologram?
 1. Man of Macedonia
 2. **Pleading:** Come and help us!
- **Help with what?**
 1. Tent making?
 2. Gospel: Ultimate help. Eternal help.

10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

- **Immediately sought to go to Macedonia**

**For those who belong to the King
First the vision of God's will...Next Immediate obedience**

Genesis 22:1 ... God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." **2** Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." **3** So Abraham **rose early in the morning...and** went to the place of which God had told him. [God provided a ransom. He saw Jesus after immediate obedience]

Delayed obedience to God's clear instruction is disobedience

- Immediately **"We" sought to go**
- Author of Book of Acts Doctor Luke now joins the group
 1. Paul, Silas, Timothy, and now Dr. Luke
- **Two Reasons God said "No" two times:**
 1. Hearts were being prepared for the Gospel in Macedonia

2. Dr. Luke needed a lift out of Troas to write **Book of Acts**
 - Personal physician for the group

- **SUMMARY: Macedonian Call**

God's unseen plan. Listen to His Spirit. Don't run ahead or lag behind. Listen, immediately obey and be amazed!

III. Lydia

11 Therefore, sailing from Troas, **we** ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day came to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days.

- Paul and friends board a ship
- **Sail from Troas across the Aegean Sea**; i.e. from Asia to Europe
 1. **Aegean Sea**: Between the mainland's of Greece and Turkey.
- **Samothrace, Neapolis, to Philippi In Macedonia**: Stayed several days
- **Philippi**: Roman Colony
 1. Roman Governor
 2. Roman Customs
 3. Spoke Latin
 4. Church loved Paul and Paul the church as seen in book to the Philippians

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ

13 And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. 14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God.

- **Sabbath day**: Saturday
 1. Group goes out of city and near the river
 2. Place where women met to pray [No synagogue. Few Jews]
 3. They spoke to the women about Jesus
 4. Lydia a Seller of purple from Thyatira **hears the Word of God**
- **From Thyatira**:
 1. Lydia possibly assisted planting the church in Thyatira
 2. Headquarters of guilds; e.g. potters, tanners, robe-makers, dye makers
 3. Center of the dying industry: Lydia was a seller of Purple
 4. Place where the Sun god worshiped
 5. **Revelation 2: Letter to the Church in Thyatira**
 - a. Church would later fall into spiritual adultery
 - b. Church of Love without Truth Chided for Hypocrisy and Corruption

c. Filled with Make-believers that would go into the "Great Tribulation"

- As for Lydia...V 14 **Lydia "worshiped God"**

Lydia was a God-Fearer as was Cornelius. Lydia is the "Man from Macedonia" in the vision waiting for Paul!

- God sends His messengers to **God-fearers**

Acts 10:1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, ² a devout *man* and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. ³ About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!"

- God sends His messengers those who **respond to His Light**
- **Light which He shines on every man:**

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. ⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. **⁹ That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.** ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And **the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- **Important: Jesus "gives Light to every man" coming into the world!**
- We are to respond to the Light given: I don't know much but I do know...
 1. Right/Wrong
 2. Moral/Immoral
 3. Good/Evil
- When a person responds to the light given the Lord will send a messenger:
 1. **Cornelius:** Angel then Peter to confirm Word spoken
 2. **Lydia:** Paul was sent and God opened her heart to hear the Word of God
 3. **Me:** Man in black
 4. **African:** English missionaries take him to school send back to mom
 5. **Roy:** Garry. Fending off cults and bringing him to church
- God is still sending messengers:

Acts 2:17 [Peter quoting Joel 2] "And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your

young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.²¹ And it shall come to pass That **whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.**'

- **Rising number of Muslims reporting dreams about Jesus**

*"I was in the desert alone, lost. As far as the horizon, there was nothing in sight but sand. I felt the sand on my bare feet. Then I saw something extraordinary. In the midst of that barrenness, an immense wooden cross emerged from the earth, rising up with sand spilling from it back to earth. "So begins a dream narrative posted by Bosnian Muslim teenager Emina Emlonic. **A dream about Jesus.***

14b The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

Lydia is the first convert to Christ in Europe

- **Lydia heard Paul with "ears to hear" and** The Lord opened her heart

John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him

It is the Holy Spirit that "opens the heart" We are to pray

Ephesians 1:18 Paul's prayer for Ephesus was that...

"The eyes of their understanding would be enlightened...that they would know:

1. Hope of God's calling
2. Riches of God's glory
3. Greatness of God's power

- Lord opened Lydia's heart **to be able to:**
 1. **Accept** the Word of God
 2. **Act** on Word of God

15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

- Lydia and family baptized
- If you believe that I'm *legit*...stay at my home
- The disciple stay at Lydia's

Lydia's Conversion was proved out by her works...Faith without works is dead!

1 Peter 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." 9 **Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.** 10 **As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another,** as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers,

let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- Give of the gifts you have been given and you will be given more that God would be glorified
- Roy proved out his love of Jesus by resolving things with his son before he left

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

IV. Delivered

Acts 16:16 Now it happened, **as we went to prayer**, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

- **We:** Paul, Silas, Timothy and Dr. Luke pray

Interruptions: Prayer, Bible study, things of God

Ephesians 6:2 ...we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 2 [Satan is the] **"...prince of the power of the air"** working in/through the "sons of disobedience:"

- Working through people, media, internet
 1. Phone rings
 2. Knock on door
 3. Arguments
 - Demon possessed Slave girl w/ Spirit of *divination*. gr. **python**
Greek mythology: Name of the Pythian serpent
- Slave Girl Possessed by the Serpent; i.e. Satan
- **Psychic:** Claims to use extrasensory perception (ESP) to identify information hidden from the normal senses. [Used to make-money]

1. Satan cannot predict future [He knows his fate from Scripture]

Revelation 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

2. Satan and his Demons do learn from the past to:

- Demons don't die: Philistines
- Use prior knowledge of the ages; i.e. People, Place and Things to "predict human behavior"

3. Familiar Spirits: Spirit of deceased Uncle Frank:

- Demon who knew Uncle Frank
- Say things that only Uncle Frank would know

4. **People possessed** often believe they had a past life, re-incarnated:
 - Accurate description of time/place. Demon was there
 - Jesus, Devil, Napoleon, Warrior, Relative, etc. never John Smith

Demon Possessed Slave Girl made owners "A Fortune"

17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation."

- **Dr. Luke:** Girl followed us screaming:
 1. "These guys are Servants of the Most High"
 2. "These guys proclaim to us 'The way of salvation'"

Were her words True or False? Right Words...Wrong Spirit.

- **Religion/Cults**
 1. Same vocabulary/Different dictionary: Jesus, God, Baptism, Heaven, Hell Judgment, Son of God, Satan, Salvation, Spirit, Spiritual Resurrection, etc.
 - Right words wrong spirit. Right words wrong Jesus
- **Music**
 1. **Secular:** "What ever doesn't kill me will make me stronger" [in Christ?]
 2. **"Christian"** music that makes you feel icky. Right words wrong spirit?
 3. **"Country"** wholesome music: Getting drunk, Jesus, Adultery in same verse?
- **County song played backwards:** — You get your house back, your wife back, your dog back, your truck back...

What is the Spirit and the Motive behind the Words?

1 John 4:1 Beloved, **do not believe every spirit**, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. **2** By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, **3** and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

- **Don't believe every Spirit:**
 1. Don't believe everything people who claim God are saying/writing
 - You got to read Purpose Driven Life: Rick Warren/Elton John
 2. Many false prophet have gone out into the world [preditors]

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. **9** Resist him, steadfast in the faith.

- Devil seeking Paul through slave girl

How do I know the Spirit of God: Confess Jesus has come in the flesh; i.e. God has come to us in the flesh in the person of Jesus Christ!

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

John 8:23 [Jesus said to the legalists] "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. **24** Therefore I said to you that you will

die in your sins; for **if you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins.**"...
56 Your father Abraham **rejoiced to see My day**, and he saw it and was glad."

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God**. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made...**14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth...**57** Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"**58** Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I AM.**"

Right Words...Wrong Spirit.

This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation."

18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

- Followed the group "many days"
- Greatly annoyed; i.e. had enough...had it up to here...as much as he's going to take
- Said to the spirit: Not supposed to talk to spirits?

"I command you in the **name of Jesus Christ** to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

Mark 3:11 ... [When the demons saw Jesus they] fell down before Him and cried out, saying, "**You are the Son of God.**" 12 But He sternly warned them that they should not make Him known. [Right words wrong spirit. Told to be quiet]

Paul like Jesus did not need a letter of reference from a demon

- Commands the spirit in the Name of Jesus and it came out that very hour. Lit before the words left his mouth.
- **Speaks in the Authority and Mighty Name of Jesus Christ**

Matthew 12:28 [Jesus to religious leaders] ...if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, **surely the kingdom of God has come upon you**. 29 Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

- **Night frights:** No biggie for the Name of Jesus!

1 John 3:8b ... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

- Jesus destroys the work of the Devil
 1. Take people to hell with him
 2. Drug/Alcohol Addiction [Meth addict example]
 - How did it happen? Temptation, Submission, Giving in and giving up
 3. Pornography: Family destruction
 4. Sexual Sin
 5. Pride

6. Demon possession...the loss of a soul

- Paul cast the demon out in the Mighty Name of Jesus: All that He is
 1. Creator
 2. Redeemer
 3. Savior
 4. Healer
 5. **The Lover of our Souls:** He loved this girl. She is made new...

19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

▪ **Master's saw:**

1. Hope of their **profit was gone** [Cant do the trick any more]
2. Mastered did not, would not see that she was **delivered/healed**

▪ **World does not want what is best for others but self**

1. Doctors enabling prescription drug addiction **for profit**
2. Movie industry poisoning young minds **for profit**
3. Colleges: Creating "life long learners" indoctrinated w/ godless psychobabble
4. Governments creating generational dependence on welfare for self-gain.

Selfishness and Greed disguised as kindness

▪ **Hope of profit gone:** Occultic pimps [Guzic]

▪ **Jesus exemplifies the exact opposite of selfishness:**

2 Corinthians 2:9 ...you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. [Self-Sacrifice]

▪ **Owners seize Paul and Silas**

1. Drag them into crowded marketplace
2. Throw down in front of Philippi police station...

20 And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; 21 and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe."

▪ **Jews: Paul and Silas.** Luke a gentile and Timothy half-Jewish

▪ **Philippi:** Roman Colony, Owners pull out the Anti-Roman card

"...they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe."

1. Roman citizens had rights
2. Non-Roman citizens had **no civil rights**
3. Assumed Paul/Silas were not Roman citizens
4. Accused them causing trouble for this Roman province.
5. Blackmailed the magistrates...

These Jews are coming against Rome! Do something or we will go to Caesar!

"There was great indignation that Roman citizens should be molested by strolling peddlers

of an outlandish religion. Such people had to be taught to know their proper place and not trouble their betters." [Bruce]

22 Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.

- Take the bait: Owners convince others and form mob!
 1. Strip them naked: Paul, Silas
 2. Beat with rods
 3. Many stripes: Jews had a limit. Romans did not.

2 Corinthians 11:23 Paul talks of receiving "stripes above measure"

4. Throw in prison

Magistrates to Jailer: Watch these guys...they're dangerous!

- So far in Philippi
 1. Went to river and prayed
 2. Lydia and family get saved
 3. Woman from demons and set free

Watch these rascals...they're dangerous!

24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

- Put them in Dungeon
- Put them in Stocks

"These stocks had more than two holes for legs, which could thus be forced apart in a such a way as to cause the utmost discomfort and cramping pain." [Bruce]

SUMMARY: Girl delivered from Satan and to Jesus. Boys delivered to jail!

V. Praise before Victory: Insert Praise

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

- **Bound up in a dungeon...BUT**
 1. Up at midnight
 2. Prisoners a captive audience but praise was to/for God

Choice when thing are hard: "Instead of cursing men, they blessed God." [Stott]

26 Suddenly [in the midst of praise] there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

- Prayer/Singing/Praise: Eyes off the storm and on the Lord...
 1. Great supernatural earthquake
 2. Foundation of prison shaken

3. Doors of cell miraculously opened
4. Everybody's chains fell off their hands and feet

The Power of Praise [opposite of complaining] will affect us and people around us!

2 Chronicles 20

- Judah's enemy Ammon, Moab and Seir come against King Jehoshaphat
- Set himself to seek the Lord
- Proclaimed a fast
- Praises God in presence of all
- Spirit of God comes upon Jahaziel the Prophet and he speaks

1 Chronicles 20:15 And [Jahaziel] said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. 16 Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. 17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you." 18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the Lord, worshiping the Lord. 19 Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with voices loud and high. 20 So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." 21 And when he had consulted with the people, **he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever."** 22 Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. 23 For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another. 24 So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.

Power of God through praises of Faith in a Big God Are we using it?

- Sometimes we can be perfect examples of what not to do!

Philippians 2:14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

- **We set the tone:** Praise of Complain

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in **all circumstances**; for

this is the will of God in Christ Jesus."

Corrie and Betsie Ten Boom at Ravensbruck Concentration camp" That's it, Corrie! That's His answer. "Give thanks in all circumstances!" That's what we can do. We can start right now to thank God for every single thing about this new barracks!" "I stared at her; then around me at the dark, foul-aired room..."They thanked God for the fact they were together. They thanked God they had a Bible. They even thanked God for the horrible crowds of prisoners, that more people would be able to hear God's Word. And then, Betsie thanked God for the fleas. "The fleas! This was too much. 'Betsie, there's no way even God can make me grateful for a flea.' ""Give thanks in all circumstances,"" she quoted. 'It doesn't say, "in pleasant circumstances." Fleas are part of this place where God has put us.' "And so we stood between tiers of bunks and gave thanks for fleas. But this time I was sure Betsie was wrong. "It turned out that Betsie was not wrong; the fleas were a nuisance, but a blessing after all. The women were able to have Bible studies in the barracks with a great deal of freedom, never bothered by supervisors coming in and harassing them. They finally discovered that it was the fleas that kept those supervisors out.

Acts 16:27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, **drew his sword** and was about to kill himself. 28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, **"Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."**

- **Jailer wakes up:** Doors open. Chains off every prisoner
- Penalty for allowing prisoner to escape: Death
- Ready to kill self [drew his sword] but no one is gone

Paul called with a *loud* voice..."Do yourself no harm... we are all here."
Paraphrase: My friend...Your not ready to meet your maker yet!

- **Circumstance said RUN...Fear said take off...Love said stay!**
- What was worth more than Paul's life? Someone else's life!

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind **let each esteem others better than himself.** 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

- Paul esteemed the jailer who beat him more than himself...
- Proved it out with more than words.

John 1:14...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us

1 John 3: 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

- **Circumstances even logic said run...**
 1. Jailer had beaten him without mercy
 2. In stocks in dark dungeon
 3. Earthquake. Doors open. Must be God's way of escape!
- **Love said stay: Paul obeyed Love**
- **Above everything else...LOVE.**

1 Peter 4:7 ... the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. 8 And **above all things** have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a

multitude of sins.”

- God has shown us mercy. God desires us to be merciful...

Micah 6:7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, **To love mercy**, And to walk humbly with your God?

- **Mercy:** Not repaying evil for evil. Mercy is the higher, holier ground...

James 2:13... judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. **Mercy triumphs over judgment.**

If you say you can't forgive. You need to fall in love with Jesus

1 John 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

Revelation 1:5 ... Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood...

- **Last thing we want to preach is be better, do better, try harder**
- **Not dedication to Jesus but love for Jesus**

God is Love. Love said stay. Paul stayed

29 Then [the jailer] called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

▪ **Jailer:**

1. Calls for light
2. Runs into where Paul/Silas are
3. Trembling uncontrollably
4. Falls down before Paul/Silas whom he just beat with rods!

30 And he brought them out and said, **“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”**

- Most important question a man, woman or child can ask.
- “What must I do to be saved?”
- **Question implies:**

1. Man knew his guilt demanded judgment [Trembling]
2. Came with an attitude of humility ready to repent [Sirs]
3. Man knew his guilt before God and man [Need to be saved]

Saved gr. sōzō: To keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger/destruction, save from suffering/perishing, to deliver from the punitive wrath of God at judgment on the last day.

4. Did not know how to “*get right*” with God
5. Believed there was something *he* could do to be saved “What must I do?”
6. Trusted that Paul/Silas have the answer
 - Who were those songs about?
 - What is this salvation you sang of?

- Who is this God you are praising?
- Why didn't you run?

31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

▪ **What he did not hear:**

1. Must go to church to be saved
2. Must join our organization to be saved. We got it right!
3. Must keep rules: Clothes, food, worship on right day to be saved
4. Must know the Bible thoroughly to be saved
5. **Must go get cleaned up to be saved:**
 - Never have enough money to buy a house. Pull the trigger
 - Never be entirely ready to get married
 - Never be righteous/clean enough to come to Jesus

Come as you are.

Romans 10:9... that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." ¹³... "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

God loves you enough to save you where you're at...

Don't worry, too much to leave you there.

- **What must I do to be saved:** How do I escape the judgment I deserve?
- Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ

32 Then [Paul/Silas] spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes.

- Washed the wounds he inflicted
- New AD Life desires go back and right wrongs we caused BC
 1. Ask forgiveness from those we have hurt
 2. Witness of our changed life

Luke 3:8 ...bear fruits worthy of repentance

33b And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

- By morning his whole household was Saved /Baptized /Washed in the Blood of Jesus!

NOTE: The jailer's family was not saved because he was. They each had to understand their sinful state and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. They did.

- What is faith that saves:

James 2:18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹You believe that there is one God. You do well. **Even the demons believe**—and tremble! ²⁰But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

- What does saving faith look like? Minimum requirements of believing to be saved?

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved..."

Believe: *pisteuō* to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in. e.g.

After walking a tightrope across Niagara Falls and back the acrobat asks a spectator "Do you believe that I can carry you across the falls and back?" Belief means not just saying "yes" but being willing to jump on his back and go with him, trusting that he is willing/able to get you back safe.

Lord: *kyrios* he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master, lord

Jesus: *Iēsous* "Jehovah is salvation" Jesus, the Son of God, the Savior of mankind, God incarnate

Christ: *Christos* "Anointed" Messiah, the Son of God [If Christ means willing, Lord means able]

Ephesians 1:13 In [Jesus] you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

- **Jailer and family:**

- Heard Word of Truth: Gospel
- Believed the Word
- Sealed with the Holy Spirit: Guarantee of Inheritance
- Awaiting the redemption of our bodies: Soul already purchased

34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

- Jailer brings Paul/Silas to his home for dinner. Midnight snack

Paul and Silas sit down at the Jailer's table to have a meal as one family in Christ. This was God's will. He smiles as he listens to them laugh together.

VI. Paul the Roman Citizen

- Paul and Silas willingly go back to jail to spare jailer once again!

Many of us do not continue to grow spiritually because we prefer to choose on the basis of our rights, instead of relying on God to make the choice for us. Whenever our right becomes the guiding factor of our lives, it dulls our spiritual insight. The greatest enemy of the life of faith in God is not sin, but good choices which are not quite good enough. The good is always the enemy of the best

- Paul [Roman citizen] could have demanded a trial
- Paul could have prevented being beaten just by showing his ID
- Paul could have ran out of the jail when the chains fell off
- Paul could have been bitter toward the jailer
- Paul could have never went back to the jail

Paul was motivated by love...not circumstances. Paul made choices based on love for others... not what seemed so obviously right for himself

- Knowing the jailer is safe, Paul will now utilize his rights as a Roman citizen

35 And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "Let those men go." 36 So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace."

- **Magistrates to jailers:** Let them go!

[Guzic would ask...] If Paul and Silas were released the day after their beating, arrest, and imprisonment, why did God send the earthquake? We see that the earthquake had absolutely nothing to do with freeing Paul and Silas from prison. But it had everything to do with the salvation of a certain prison guard and his household.

- Magistrates realize they had violated a Roman citizen's rights/in big trouble!
- **Jail Keeper:** ...now sneak away! Go in peace

37 But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out." 38 And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans.

- **"We are Romans citizens"** How could he prove it?
 1. Carried a copy of *professio*; i.e. Roman birth certificate

39 Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city. 40 So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

- Paul makes them come and escort them out
- Not in a hurry to leave [indulging in the moment]
- Leave and go to Lydia's home:
 1. Another meal with new members of God's family
 2. Encouraged them: Guess what just happened? God is Good

Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Dr. Luke depart Philippi for Thessalonica... but not before seeing Lydia's whole household and the Jailer's entire household receive Jesus and Eternal Life

- **Apostle Paul willingly took one for the team:**
- Christians in Philippi would have a time of peace because of Paul's sacrifice
Jesus: Greater love has know man than to give His life for His friend

Sometimes circumstances offer every opportunity for us to save ourselves...to cut and run...to say I have had enough...I've been hurt too bad...

But Love says stay, endure; don't give up for the sake of this soul.

What is love telling you to do today?

