

I. God Sometimes Denies Our Best Plans (6)

"And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia."

- We can hardly conceive of the Lord prohibiting us from advancing the Gospel somewhere
- Their plans were blocked, hindered, prevented, restrained. The cause was not the enemy, not flesh and blood and not bad circumstances. HOLY SPIRIT BLOCKED THEIR PATHWAY IN WISDOM.
- They were seeking to obey the Great Commission by advancing the "logos" of the Gospel. For reasons not explained here. Holy Spirit did not allow them to do what they felt was best.

II. God Sometimes Refines Our Direction in Our Next Plans (7)

"And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them."

- Someone was eventually sent to Bithynia as Peter references the Christians there in 1 Pet. 1:1
- There is no rebuke for wanting/attempting to go to Bithynia. Their desire was not amiss.
- We are not told how they were prohibited. Somehow they discerned the Lord saying NO.

III. God Sometimes Refuses to Disclose His Detailed Plans (8)

"So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas."

- Mysia, another city could have benefitted from the Gospel. But they did not stop there either.
- They lodged in Troas, perhaps assuming this important area would mark the place of their next missions work. It turns out that this established port city was also not the place where God would appoint them to serve.

IV. God Powerfully Communicates His Most Important Plan (9-10)

"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. 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."

This passage includes the whole Godhead in both closing and opening doors of opportunity:  
Father (vs. 10)                  Jesus (vs. 7)                  Holy Spirit (vs. 6)

Final result? The Gospel arrives on European soil in the territory of Macedonia