

Making Christ Known to Our Neighbors

Acts 16:4-15

Introduction:

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. Romans 5:5

The late pastor and Bible scholar - **Donald Barnhouse** perhaps said it best: *“Love that goes upward is worship; Love that goes outward is affection; love that stoops is grace.”*

I. The deliberation of Paul concerning his next steps. (V. 4-8)

A. The Spirit prospered the ministry in certain cities.

And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily. Acts 16:5

B. The Spirit prevented the ministry in certain cities.

Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, Acts 16:6

“When God says no, it’s because He has something better in store for you.”
- **Adrian Rogers**

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: John 16:13

II. The directing of Paul through the prompting of a neighbor. (V. 9)

A. Paul was prompted to proceed to Macedonia.

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; there stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. (V. 10) And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them. Acts 16:9-10

B. Paul was prompted to preach in Macedonia.

And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. Acts 16:13-14

But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost. Mark 13:11

III. The discernment of Paul to preach to the neighbors. (V.14-15)

A. The Spirit provided perception for the ministry of Paul.

And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. Acts 16:14

(Lydia was a seller of purple: Purple dye that was taken from a certain shellfish.)

Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. 2 Corinthians 3:6

B. The Spirit provided provisions for the ministry of Paul.

And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us. Acts 16:15

“That she was a woman of considerable means is evidenced by the size of her house. It would have to be ample enough to house four men as well as her household without embarrassment.”

- Roy Zuck