

# One Anothering: ‘Seeking Direction’

A photograph showing several silhouetted figures of people of different ages and ethnicities holding hands in a circle. They are standing outdoors at dusk or dawn, with a bright, colorful sky in the background featuring shades of orange, yellow, and blue. The overall atmosphere is one of unity and community.

Acts 15:40-16:10



# Acts

15:40 But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord.  
41 And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches. 16:1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, 2 and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted this man to go



# Acts

with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. 4 Now while they were passing through the cities, they were delivering the decrees which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem, for them to observe. 5 So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily. 6 They passed



# Acts

through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; 7 and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; 8 and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying,



# Acts

"Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. 11 So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a [Roman] colony; and we were staying in this city for some days.



# Seeking together

- Paul's new focus - finding God's plan
- He had worked with Barnabas...
- another journey lay ahead...
- Companions - Silas...Timothy
- “well spoken” but the wrong parent!

# What?

- Paul's heart is set on the Gospel Message
- He has the Spirit, Blessing of the Church
- Workers to help him along the way - Luke!
- Council of Jerusalem mandate
- ...and he has to deal with “old attitudes”
- Poor Timothy....

# Everybody Knew

- All they wanted was to preach!
- Paul takes a hard road, for Timothy...
  - Willing heart!
  - no sense of conflict
  - embraces Paul's experience...
  - delivering the decree from Jerusalem!

# Just keep moving...

- They set out to new areas, away from Jews
- Ready to preach, serve, plant...
- ...and the Holy Spirit says “**NO!**”
  - no explanation given...
  - no reason given...
  - no permission asked...

# When God Shuts Doors

- Paul's reputation was on the line...
  - Timothy compromised
  - No clear word besides "NO"!
  - What do we do now?
  - Give God the choice!!!

# Walking Humble

- God was leading - a long walk!
- HS, Spirit of Jesus check his path...
- “If only...”
- The walk of trust... Troas
  - Vision of a NEED! Macedonia!
  - “Come... help us!!!”

# Immediately!!!

- No voice, no “sign”, no explanation...
- **TAKE THE CALL!!!**
- Philippi - leading city of Macedonia (12)
  - strategic location on the Ignatian Way
  - no Jews... so who was he there for?
  - A business woman, a possessed slave, and a roman Jailer ...