



# **STARTING IN JERUSALEM**

## **LESSON 11**

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# VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **Acts 1:7-9** He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
    - **AUTHORITY: *EXOUSIA*: the right to act**
      1. given by someone to someone
      2. works within certain specified rules
      3. has established parameters (domain)
    - **POWER: *DUNAMIS*: the ability to act**
- AUTHORITY AND POWER WORK TOGETHER

# MARK ISN'T ALONG!

- Acts 15:39-40 And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord.
- Where is Barnabas?
- 1<sup>st</sup> journey: 46-48
- Writes Galatians 48-49
- Jerusalem Council: 50
- 2<sup>nd</sup> journey: 50-52
- 1 Corinthians 9:6 Or do only Barnabas and I not have a right to refrain from working? 55

# THE TRIP BEGINS

- Acts 15:41 And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.
- Acts 16:1-2 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, and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium.



# COUNCIL'S DECREE

- Acts 16:3-4 Paul wanted this man to go 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. 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.

- Acts 16:6 They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia;



# THE SPIRIT AT WORK

- Acts 16:7-8 ...and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.
- Acts 16:9-10 A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 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.
- Samothrace: from Samos (height) an island rising a mile high NW of Troas; center of worship of Poseidon (Dagon)



# IN PHILIPPI

- Acts 16:13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.
- If there was no synagogue, the Jewish custom was to meet for prayer by running water
- The assembly was of women

- Acts 16:14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics

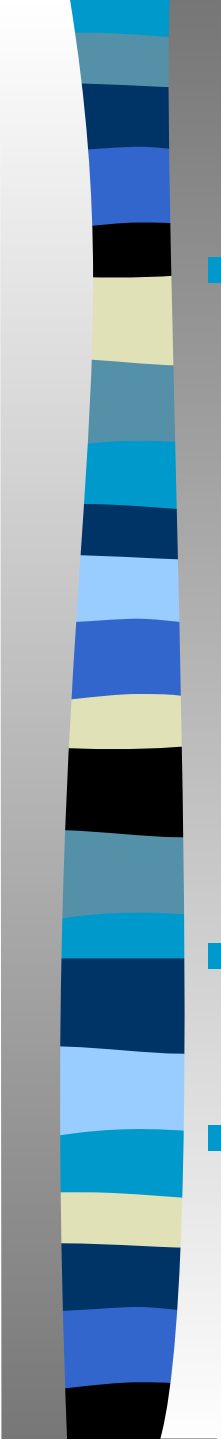


# CONFRONTATION

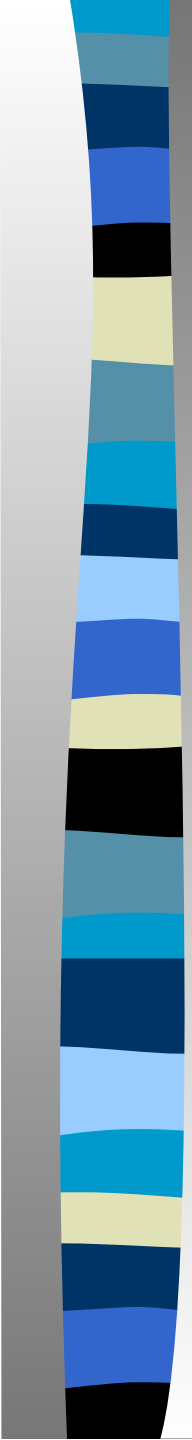
- Acts 16:16-17 It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation."
- Spirit of divination: *pneuma puthona*: python spirit
- **This spirit is associated as the medium for the oracle of Delphi, the oracle of Apollo**



# THE RESULT

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- Acts 16:19-21 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities, and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, "These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews, and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans."
  - Beaten with rods, thrown into inner prison, fastened in stocks
  - Acts 16:25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

# THE JAILER

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- Acts 16:26...and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened
  - The jailer was about to kill himself
  - Acts 16:29-30 And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"
  - The jailer and his family were saved!



# PEOPLE WHO HEARD THE WORD

- Lydia
- The demon-possessed slave girl
- The jailer
- Why? Paul was listening to the Spirit of the Lord
- How do we hear from God?
  1. Check motivation
  2. Check circumstances
  3. Compare with God's Word
  4. Seek counsel from mature believers
  5. Be open to unusual leading

# TAKE FREEDOM AND RUN?

- 1 Corinthians 12:3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 16:35-37 Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their policemen, saying, "Release those men." And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Therefore come out now and go in peace." But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us in public without trial, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out."

# THE SITUATION



God gave the direction

People were saved

Evil entered (but sneaked in)

Evil confronted

Evil raises an ugly head

Mistakes are made

Christians suffer

Christians worship

God redeems the situation

People are saved

Lessons are learned

The church is encouraged

# THESSALONICA

- Acts 17:1-3 Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."





# STIRRING UP TROUBLE

- Acts 17:5 But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people.
- Acts 17:6 When they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have **upset the world** have come here also;
- World: *oikoumene*: every person on the planet
- Worshiping a king who isn't Caesar
- **Acts 17:8 They stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things.**

# POSTING BOND

- Acts 17:9 And when they had received a pledge from Jason and the others, they released them.
- **Pledge: *hikanos*: ample security**
- 1 Thessalonians 2:18 For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan hindered us.
- 1 Thessalonians 3:1-3 Therefore when we could endure it no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone, and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.
- **Apparently Timothy hadn't been accused in the uproar**



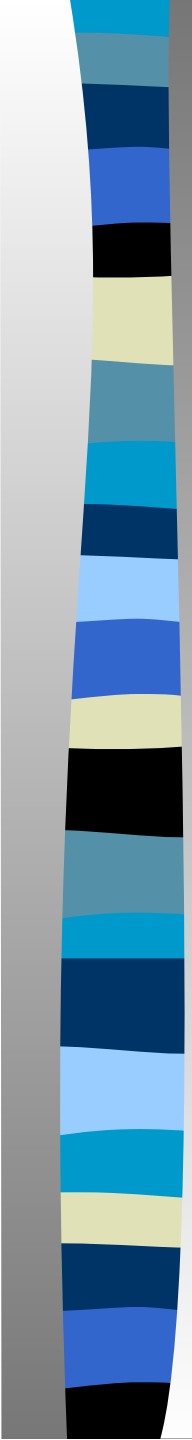
# BEREAN EXAMPLE

- Acts 17:10-12 The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men.
- **Examining: *investigating*; calling into account**

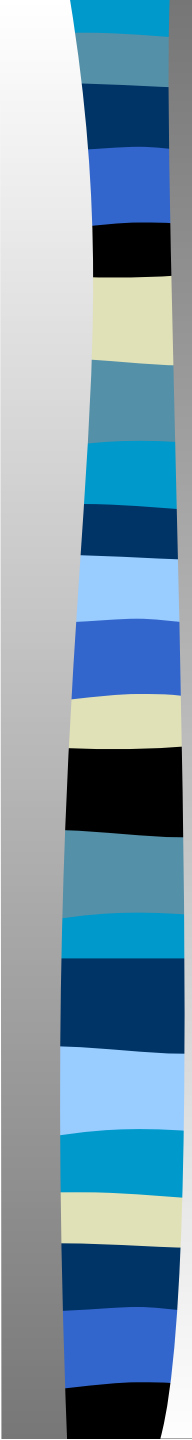
# SIT AND WAIT?

- Acts 17:17-18 So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present. And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. Some were saying, "What would this idle babbler wish to say?" Others, "He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.
- Idle babbler: *spermologos*: seed picker; someone who has bits and pieces of knowledge

# THE AUDIENCE

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- The Jews
  - The God-fearing Gentiles
  - The regular people in the marketplace
  - The Epicureans
  - The Stoics
  - Epicureans: chief end of man is pleasure and happiness; if there are are gods, they aren't very involved in the lives of people
  - Stoics: followers of Zeno who taught in the stoas in Athens; believed people had a purpose and should try to find and align with it; self-sufficient

# THE INVITATION

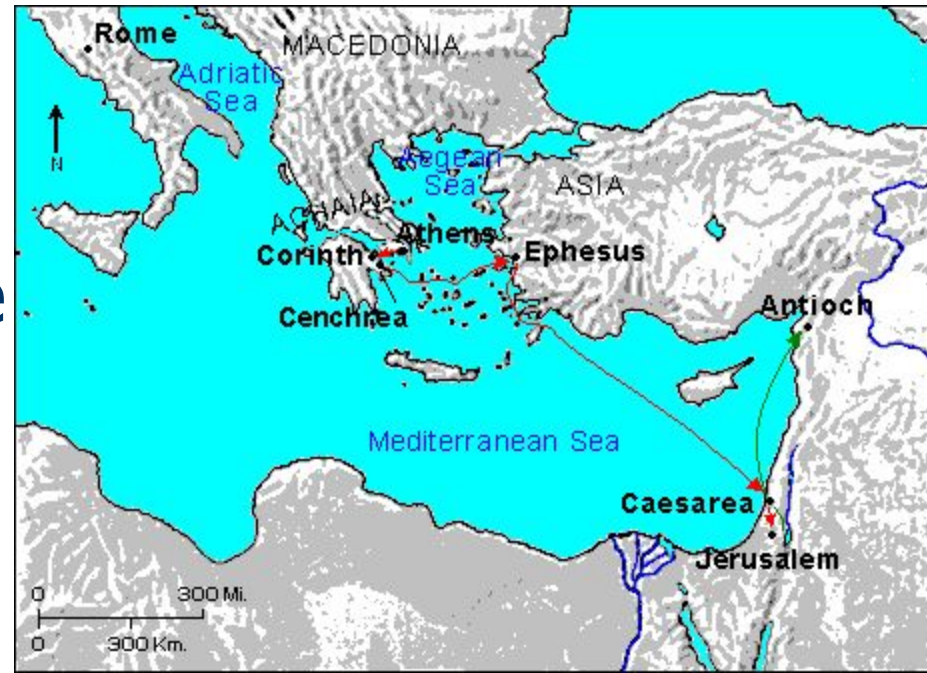
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- Acts 17:19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming?"
  - **Mars Hill Sermon: Redeeming a culture**
  - Paul used their altar to an "unknown god" as a starting point
  - Paul didn't go out and build other altars to an "unknown god"
  - **Paul didn't emphasize the altar; he emphasized their lack of knowledge of God**
  - Paul left Athens before Timothy and Silas arrived



# ON TO CORINTH

■ Acts 18:1-3 After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them, and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers.

■ **Were Priscilla and Aquila believers prior to meeting Paul?**



# SILAS AND TIMOTHY ARRIVE

- Acts 18:5-6 But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."
- Nehemiah 5:13 I also shook out the front of my garment and said, "Thus may God shake out every man from his house and from his possessions who does not fulfill this promise; even thus may he be shaken out and emptied."
- Ezekiel 33:4 ...then he who hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, and a sword comes and takes him away, his blood will be on his own head.



# GENTILE BELIEVERS

- Acts 18:7-10 Then he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next to the synagogue. Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized. And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city."

# A YEAR AND A HALF

- ...THEN TROUBLE

- Acts 18:12-15 But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, saying, "This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law." But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrong or of vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you; but if there are questions about words and names and your own law, look after it yourselves; I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters."

- **Sosthenes, the synagogue leader was beaten right in front of the judgment seat**

# WHY SOSTHENES?

- Leader who wasn't successful in getting their court case heard; beaten by Jews
- **Leader who was sympathetic to Christians beaten by Jews**
- Beaten by Gentiles who felt free to vent their anti-semitism because Gallio had done so
- **Letter to Corinth: 1 Corinthians 1:1-2 Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, to the church of God which is at Corinth...**

# IN EPHESUS

- Acts 18:19-21 They came to Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent, but taking leave of them and saying, "I will return to you again if God wills," he set sail from Ephesus.

- Priscilla and Aquila stayed behind there
- Paul sailed on to Caesarea, Jerusalem, and Antioch





# ON THE ROAD AGAIN

- **After staying in Antioch, probably until spring, Paul left again for Phrygia and Galatia**
- Acts 18:24-26 Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.
- **The disciples in Achaia welcomed him later; he was powerful in his presentation of the Word**