

The Acts of the Risen Lord Jesus: The Jesus Road

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Text: Acts 16:6-15 (CSB)

6 They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia; they had been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. 7 When they came to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. 8 Passing by Mysia they went down to Troas. 9 During the night Paul had a vision in which a Macedonian man was standing and pleading with him, "Cross over to Macedonia and help us!" 10 After he had seen the vision, we immediately made efforts to set out for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Which way, Jesus?

11 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, the next day to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, a Roman colony and a leading city of the district of Macedonia. We stayed in that city for several days. 13 On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate by the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and spoke to the women gathered there.

You want me to do what?

14 A God-fearing woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, was listening. The Lord opened her heart to respond to what Paul was saying. 15 After she and her household were baptized, she urged us, "If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

Jesus, this door is locked.

Spiritual Growth Prompts & Questions

The Bible has a way (through God's Spirit) of poking and prodding places in us that need healing, help, or transformation. Something may come to mind and your first instinct will be to disagree or try to talk yourself out of it. That's a good indication that Jesus is speaking. Did He highlight something for you today as you listened?

The Bible is also one huge story - written to lead you to Jesus. How did today's passage do that? How did the text make Jesus beautiful? Can you see Him? If so, how does He compare to the stuff of life? If not, what do you think might be blocking your vision?

Finally, the Bible's story line can get lodged in your heart and mind and mess with you. This is a

good thing, but it can be uncomfortable. Jesus will use His story to ask you questions. Instead of you reading the text, it will begin to read you. He will ask things of you. Almost like a voice in your head, Jesus will be calling and compelling you to action. What is He doing in you today?