

Paul Begins His Second Missionary Journey Acts 11 - 12

Introduction

Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch with Judas and Silas after the church council meeting. They gave the Gentile believers the good news about the question of circumcision. The Antioch church was encouraged and strengthened. Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch teaching and preaching the word of the Lord. However, Paul began to feel the need to return to the cities where he had preached the gospel. His heart was filled with a desire to see how the new believers were doing. The Holy Spirit was nudging him to set out again on a second mission to the Gentiles.

Outline of Acts 15:36-16:40

- I. Paul and Barnabas Part Ways - Acts 15:36-41
- II. Paul Returns to Asia Minor - Acts 16:1-5
- III. Paul is Called to Macedonia - Acts 16:6-10
- IV. Paul Ministers in Philippi - Acts 16:11-40

I. Paul and Barnabas Part Ways - Acts 15:36-41

Barnabas and Paul had been a fruitful team at the church in Antioch and on their first missionary trip. Paul suggested that they revisit the churches that God had established on their missionary trip. Barnabas wanted to bring his cousin, John Mark, even though his cousin had left the first missionary journey early. Barnabas wanted to give him another chance. However, Paul did not want John Mark on this trip. The disagreement caused the men to go separate ways. Barnabas took John Mark, and they sailed to Cyprus where they would encourage the churches in his homeland. Paul chose Silas and they traveled through Syria and Cilicia strengthening those churches. Maybe they stopped in Paul's hometown of Tarsus as they passed through Cilicia. Luke doesn't mention if they did. We know that Paul and Barnabas remained friends after the disagreement because Paul

later speaks well of Barnabas (1 Corinthians 9:6). He also says that John Mark is *useful to (him) for ministry* (2 Timothy 4:11).

II. Paul Returns to Asia Minor - Acts 16:1-5

Paul and Silas traveled back to the areas evangelized on the first missionary journey. They revisited Derbe and Lystra, and it was there that Paul met Timothy. He was a young man who was admired by the members of the churches in the area. Paul must have been impressed by this young man too, because he invited him to join the missionary group.

Timothy's mother was Jewish and had taught him the Old Testament Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:15). However, Timothy had never been circumcised since his father was Greek. Paul asked Timothy to be circumcised because Timothy would be ministering to Jews. The Jews would be offended and not listen to either of the men if Timothy was uncircumcised. Paul's main concern was that the Jews would not hear the gospel; they would be too distracted by the issue of circumcision. Having Timothy circumcised would allow the men to get to the heart of the matter...sharing the good news about Jesus.

It is common sense and simple courtesy to avoid offending others. Think of it this way: when you go to a friend's house and see that the family removes their shoes before entering their home, do you leave your shoes on? It is not a sin for you to wear shoes in a house. There is certainly no law against it. But you can be certain that your friend's family will be **insulted**. You will probably not be invited back. When you come up in future conversations, you will be referred to as "the one that did not take off his shoes." Paul did not want to be remembered as the Jew with the uncircumcised, half Jewish friend. His

desire was for the Jews to hear the message about their savior, Jesus Christ. That is what he wanted people to remember.

Timothy joined Paul and Silas. As they traveled, they delivered the Jerusalem council's decision (Acts 15:23-29) to the churches in each city. The ministry of these men helped to strengthen the faith of the believers, and the churches continued to grow.

III. Paul is Called to Macedonia - Acts 16:6-10

God had a plan for the missionaries, and He made His will known through the Holy Spirit. While in Troas, Paul had a vision of a Macedonian man pleading *come over to Macedonia and help us*. Macedonia was a Roman province just across the Aegean Sea from Troas. The call would take the missionaries and the gospel message to the continent of Europe for the first time. Paul responded with obedience. The "we" in Acts 16:10, shows that Luke, the author of Acts, joined the missionary team at this point.

IV. Paul Ministers in Philippi - Acts 16:11-40

Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke set sail for Macedonia and travelled to the city of Philippi. When Paul arrived in a new city, it was always his custom to go to the synagogue first. However, there were no synagogues in Philippi. (A synagogue required ten adult Jewish men to be present for public worship and it likely that there were not enough Jewish men in the area¹.) The missionaries went out of the city to the riverside, *a place where prayer was customarily made*. It was the custom for cities without a synagogue to have a designated place for prayer where the Jews could meet to read and study the Scriptures. They usually welcomed any Jewish teacher.

The missionaries found a group of women beside the river, so they sat down and began to preach. A woman named Lydia was there, and,

although she was not Jewish, she worshipped God (like Cornelius in Acts 10:2). As Paul spoke, Lydia listened. *The Lord opened her heart* to receive the gospel message. Lydia was saved because God did a work in her heart. Jesus told His followers that *No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him* (John 6:44). Paul wrote later that without God, no one can understand or accept spiritual things (1 Corinthians 2:14). Salvation is in the hands of God who shows mercy (Romans 9:16). On this day, by the riverside, *the Lord opened (Lydia's) heart* and she became the first **convert** to Christianity on the European continent.

After being baptized, Lydia invited the missionaries to stay in her home. She showed Christian **hospitality**. Paul wrote in his letter to the Roman's that all Christians are to be *given to hospitality* (Romans 12:13). Notice that he did not say all adult Christians. It does not matter what age you are. As a Christian, hospitality is your duty. Do you usually talk to the same friends at church or school. Have you ever looked for someone new to welcome into your circle of friends? Don't be too busy chatting and 'hanging out' that you miss an opportunity to show kindness.

While the missionaries stayed in Philippi, a slave girl began to follow them and cry out loudly that they were *the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation*. The girl was filled with a **spirit of divination**. After several days, Paul became *greatly annoyed*. He was very upset that this girl was under such bondage to the demon that possessed her. He commanded the demon to come out of her *in the name of Jesus Christ*, and the demon came out *that very hour*.

However, the girl was a slave and her masters had used her demon possession to make money by claiming that she could tell the future. When the evil spirit left the girl, the masters were angry that their business had been ruined. They were not impressed with the power of Christ which had cast out the

¹ Recently (c. 49 AD) the Emperor Claudius, had expelled all Jews from Rome (Acts 18:2). This is historically known as the "Expulsion of the Jews." Since Philippi was a Roman colony, there may have been anti-Jewish feelings there.

demon. They seized Paul and Silas² and took them to the leaders of Philippi. They were accused of being Jews who troubled the city by teaching unlawful customs. They were beaten with *many stripes* and thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to *keep them securely, so he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks*.

At midnight, in the pitch black cell, bruised and bloody from their beating, stretched from having their feet in the stocks, and sleepless, Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns to God loudly enough for all the other prisoners to hear. What an amazing example they were to everyone around them. Instead of complaining to God or to each other, they prayed together. Instead of pouting and saying that it was not fair, they sang hymns. God heard them. He chose to shake the foundations of the prison with so much force that the prison doors swung open, and the chains fell off of the prisoners. When the jailer saw the open doors, he drew his sword to kill himself. He did not want to face the punishment he would get for having lost the prisoners. Somehow, Paul was aware of what was happening and called out to the jailer, telling him that all the prisoners were still there.

The jailer rushed into the cell of Paul and Silas and fell, trembling at their feet. Taking them out of their cell he asked, *Sirs, what must I do to be saved?* Paul and Silas answered the jailer's question, *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household*. The Lord opened the hearts of the jailer and his family, just as He had opened the heart of Lydia.

The next morning, the magistrates ordered that the two men be released. But, when the jailer delivered the news to Paul, he **protested**. As Roman citizens, Paul and Silas' rights had been **violated**. They had been 1) beaten against the law, 2) had not received a public trial, and 3) had been thrown into prison without being convicted.

² Paul and Silas were accused of being Jews causing trouble. Perhaps Luke and Timothy were not arrested because they were not Jewish. (Timothy was half Greek.)

Now, the magistrates did not want to admit they had wronged the men. Paul insisted on a public apology from them. He did not want these men to think they could get away with their actions. Paul was concerned for future missionaries as well as the safety of the new believers.

When the magistrates heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were afraid. It was against the law to mistreat a Roman citizen. The magistrates could lose their jobs for what they had done. No wonder they went to the prison immediately to apologize, release the missionaries, and beg them to leave the city.

Before leaving Philippi, Paul and Silas returned to Lydia's house to see the new believers again and give them encouragement. Notice that the "we" section ends with Acts 16:40. This means that Luke probably stayed in Philippi to help the new Philippian church. †

Prayer

Ask God to help you find ways to show hospitality to someone this week.

Memory Verse

Acts 16:31 *So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."*

Vocabulary

insulted - to treat with rudeness, offend, or hurt.

convert - new believer or follower

hospitality - generous treatment of guests

spirit of divination - demon possessed; a person who spoke things without being able to control his speech

protested - did not approve; disagreed

violated - broke a law or agreement

Questions for Acts Lesson 14

All questions are based on the New King James Version of the Bible.

DAY ONE: Review last weeks lesson and notes.

1. What impressed you most about Paul's visit to Philippi?

2. What did you learn from the notes that was new or interesting to you?

DAY TWO: Read Acts 17:1-15.

3. a. After leaving Philippi, where did Paul preach next? What was his message?

- b. What was the result of his preaching? Underline the correct answers.

Some were persuaded.

Some Jews became envious.

Jason's house was attacked.

Paul was stoned.

Devout Greeks and leading women
joined Paul and Silas.

- c. Why did Paul and Silas have to leave Thessalonica? List the accusations which were made against them.

4. a. Where did Paul go next? _____

- b. What do you learn about the people who lived there? _____

- c. ♥(Heart Question) In what way(s) would you want to be like them?

5. a. Who stirred up trouble for Paul in Berea?

- b. Using your map, about how far did they have to travel to cause trouble for Paul?

- c. What did Paul do as a result of the trouble?

DAY THREE: Read Acts 17:16-25.

6. What troubled Paul's spirit when he arrived in Athens? What did he do about it?

7. a. How did various groups of people react to Paul's speech?

b. Where did they take Paul? Why?

8. a. In addressing the *Men of Athens* what did Paul say he had observed about them?

b. What would Paul now proclaim to them?

c. From verses 24 and 25, list five things Paul told the Athenians about God.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

DAY FOUR: Read Acts 17:26-34.

9. a. From Paul's speech, what do you learn about the following?

God's role in history _____

The Divine Nature _____

God's mercy _____

Repentance _____

Judgment _____

b. How did people respond to Paul's speech? _____

DAY FIVE: Read Acts 18:1-22.

10. a. What city did Paul go to after Athens? Who did he meet there?

b. How were they an encouragement to Paul?

11. a. What teaching caused the Jews to oppose Paul?

b. How did Paul respond to the opposition?

c. ? (Thought Question) How does Ezekiel 33:1-6 explain what Paul meant when he said: *your blood be upon your own heads*?

12. Who responded to Paul's teaching and believed? Circle the correct answers.

Sosthenes

Gallio, the proconsul

Alexander the Great

many Corinthians

Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue

13. a. How did the Lord encourage Paul?

b. What did Paul do after this? Verse 11.

14. a. What was the Jews' charge against Paul?

b. What was Gallio's response?

VOCABULARY FOR ACTS LESSON 14

***"The more words you know, the more clearly and powerfully you will think...
and the more ideas you will invite into your mind."***

— Wilfred Funk

DAY ONE: Write the vocabulary words.

insulted - _____

convert - _____

hospitality - _____

spirit of divination - _____

protested - _____

violated - _____

DAY TWO: Write three sentences using three different vocabulary words of your choice.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

DAY THREE: Circle the word's synonym(s). (Synonym is a word/phrase that means the same thing.)

protested - accepted objected approved

hospitality - hostility friendliness generosity

insulted - praised offended mocked

DAY FOUR: Match the word to its meaning.**insulted**

- demon possessed; a person who spoke things without being able to control his speech

convert

- new believer or follower

hospitality

- broke a law or agreement

spirit of divination

- new believer or follower

protested

- did not approve; disagreed

violated

- generous treatment of guests

DAY FIVE: Review previous vocabulary words.

Y G T H F O B Z K G F J Y E X
 F A B R I C A T E U W L M N M
 Q V J V N A P U L W K I E X G
 H U O L O O G F Q C V W H N R
 M Y L S U O I C I L A M P E K
 A V F F G L P T G B C D S U M
 Y H M A L U A A P C S W A T C
 H D N M Q R H E T E W R L R K
 O Y E C O O F W Z R C W B A F
 S N R Q S Y T I N U I E O L O
 T R P T D T U N P S W A D Q R
 N O I H O O Q Y F B A J R P D
 J L C M P W C F N F U V Q C Z
 E F Q I Z L Q N C J N E H O H
 W T Y N J E G F P S C Q X M Y

_____ : a behavior or action that is contrary to God and His truth.

_____ : eagerness or strong desire

_____ : not taking any side or position in a dispute or when there is opposition.

_____ : oneness of mind and feelings; agreement

_____ : man who rules family, tribe, or clan

_____ : to satisfy; to complete

_____ : feeling or showing ill will

_____ : harmfully

_____ : create in order to deceive

_____ : made up of 10 or more Jews who met together to read and interpret Scripture. There may have been hundreds of synagogues in Jerusalem during the first century.

_____ : the act of misleading or falsely represent someone or something.