

LESSON 2

PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY (PART 2)

ANOTHER TRAVELING COMPANION (TIMOTHY) (16:1-3)

With their task in Syria and Cilicia completed, Paul and Silas headed west. At last they reached the plateau of Southern Galatia, where Paul had labored on the first journey: Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra.

1. What signs can be seen of Timothy's spiritual progress?
2. Why had Paul not allowed Titus to be circumcised but had thought it important for Timothy to be circumcised?

"THROUGH THE CITIES" (16:4, 5)

It was time for the team to move on. The men traveled north, then west, visiting churches established on the first journey—in Iconium, Antioch of Pisidia, and perhaps elsewhere.

3. What is unique about the use of the word "they" in 16:4?

TO TROAS: THE "MACEDONIAN CALL" (16:6-10)

Paul was so encouraged by the success of the work in Phrygia and Galatia that he looked for new fields in which to plant the seed of the gospel. To the west was Asia, the leading and most prosperous province in the eastern part of the Roman Empire. To their surprise, God blocked their way, and they had to alter their course. When they reached the region of Mysia, they decided to go north into the rich, important Roman province of Bithynia; but again this was not the Lord's plan. No doubt puzzled and perplexed, they at last reached Troas, but they did not have long to wonder. In the night God gave them their answer.

4. What factors make apparent that taking the gospel to the West was not part of Paul's immediate plans?

5. How did Paul most likely meet Luke?

SAILING TO MACEDONIA (16:11, 12)

At this point Luke recorded details of the voyage.

6. Where were Samothrace and Neapolis, and what do we know about them?

7. Since the man in Paul's vision simply said to come to Macedonia, why did Paul go specifically to Philippi?

8. What was the history of the city of Philippi?

9. Of what significance was the fact that Philippi was a Roman colony?

IN PHILIPPI: THE CONVERSION OF LYDIA'S HOUSEHOLD (16:13–15)

The congregation began in an inauspicious way. As far as we know, Philippi had no synagogue. Paul, therefore, could not begin his work by going to the synagogue as he normally did. Knowing Paul, if he and the others arrived in Philippi several days before the Sabbath, they probably did general preaching (as they did in Lystra where there was no synagogue) while trying to find out if there were any Jews in the area.

10. Why did they expect to find a place of prayer at the river?

11. What does the phrase "the Lord opened her heart" mean in 16:14?

12. What assumptions do those who say there was a baby among those baptized in 16:15 make?

IN PHILIPPI: THE HEALING OF A POSSESSED GIRL; IMPRISONED (16:16–24)

Luke moved immediately to an incident near the end of Paul's initial work in Philippi. As they went on their way, they met a certain slave-girl. To move from the story of Lydia to the story of this slave-girl is to move from the upper class of society to the very lowest class of society.

13. What does the phrase "a spirit of divination" mean in 16:16?

14. Why was Paul annoyed by the girl even though she spoke the truth about him?
15. What was the market place to which Paul was taken, and how did it function in the city?
16. What three emotional triggers did the accusers of Paul and Silas pull with the Roman magistrates?
17. Why did Paul and Silas not inform the magistrates of their Roman citizenship before they were beaten?

IN PHILIPPI: THE CONVERSION OF THE JAILER'S HOUSEHOLD (16:25–34)

After what would have seemed an agonizing eternity to Paul and Silas, the midnight hour arrived. Instead of singing “the blues,” Paul and Silas sang praises. The other prisoners had doubtless heard cries and curses from the inner prison; never before had they heard prayers and praise.

18. Why did the jailer ask Paul and Silas how to be saved?
19. Why did they not give the jailer the same answer that Peter gave the Jews on the Day of Pentecost?

IN PHILIPPI: THE RELEASE FROM PRISON (16:35–40)

The conclusion of the story has a touch of wry humor. “Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their policemen to the jailer, saying, ‘Release those men.’” The officials probably thought the beating and a night in jail was sufficient to teach these troublesome Jews their place.

20. Why do scholars believe that Luke remained in Philippi after Paul and Silas left?