

CP - 10/1/23

Acts 16:6–15 - The Macedonian Call and the First Convert

Sermon Outline

Acts 16:6–40:

- *The Macedonian Call (16:6–10)
- *Lydia's Conversion (16:11–15)
- *The Slave girl's Deliverance and Consequences (16:16–24)
- *The Jailer's conversion and Household (16:25–39)
- *The Beginning of a Philippian church (16:40)

1. The Macedonian Call (16:6–10)

- *The Holy Spirit shut down missionary work in two directions, Asia and Bithynia.
 - *Asia (modern day Western Turkey)
 - *Bithynia (modern day Northern Turkey)
- *The Spirit shut two doors in order to open one into Macedonia.
 - *For evangelism to unbelievers
 - *We do God's work in God's timing. (Note the places where Paul and Peter would minister, preach, plant, teach, etc. later - 1 Peter 1:1 - Bithynia and Asia listed!)
 - *This area possibly never in Paul's mind!
 - *For sanctification/fellowship to believers (Luke - "we")
 - *For God's purposes in the future (book of Luke/Acts)

2. Lydia: The First Convert in Philippi (Acts 16:11–15)

- *Where God led, the team sought to engage others.
- *Where God provided, the team faithfully shared truth. (14:7, 17:18, 20:21, 26:20)
- *When God saved, the team disciplined new believers. (16:15–16, 16:40)

Application:

1. Are you like the Macedonians, in need of gospel help?
2. Are you like Lydia, having much but needing Christ?
3. Believer, where is God shutting/opening gospel doors?
4. Believer, who are the Macedonians and Lydias in your life? Are you seeking, sharing, and discipling them?

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out the most from the Bible passage and sermon?
2. Why are we to make of the Holy Spirit shutting doors to Asia and Bithynia? What are some reasons why God shuts some doors and opens others? (e.g., evangelism, fellowship/sanctification, God's future purposes). Discuss these reasons as a group.
3. How was the missionary team called to Macedonia? Does this story seem strange to you? Why or why not? What means have you experienced to recognize God's calling and direction? Discuss as a group.
4. Once the missionary team arrived in Philippi, what steps did they take? What is our responsibility in following God's direction and yet not knowing exactly what to do?
5. Discuss how the Lord opens our heart as he did for Lydia. Discuss Lydia's response of asking the missionary team to observe her faithfulness to the Lord. Why is it different in our day in this area? Discuss.
6. As time permits, pray as a group for the Macedonians and Lydias in your life. Commit to sharing Christ with these people in the coming week.