

Left off - Paul wanted to go see how the churches were doing that he planted on his first missionary journey with Barnabas. When Paul approached Barney about going, Barnabas wanted to bring John-Mark, but Paul was absolutely against it, so they parted and went their separate ways. Paul goes with Silas to Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

1 Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. 2 He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.

On the first missionary journey they had great success in Derbe, and in Lystra is where they healed a lame man, and the people came out in droves to worship P & B, and the Jews from Antioch showed up and convinced a bunch of people to drag Paul outside the city and stone him to death. They thought Paul was dead, and then he got up and went back into town.

One particular teenager - Timothy - most likely around 13 years old at the time watched all this go down. Much like young Paul was moved by what he observed in Stephen 20 years earlier.

Timothy was a young disciple, now about 18 years old - and a follower of Jesus - so much so, that he was known for making Jesus famous beyond the borders of his home town.

2 Tim 1:2 To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, 5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

3 Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.

Whoa, Whoa, Whoa, wait a minute - didn't we just study a huge argument about whether or not you had to be circumcised to be saved??? Paul was adamantly against it, and he is on the move sharing the decree of the Jerusalem council, encouraging and strengthening the churches.

Paul's method was to go to the Jew first, then the gentile. Timothy having a Jewish mother, according to the Jews, makes him Jewish. Having a gentile dad, and not being circumcised - apostate. This would throw a wrench into Paul's method. Timothy willingly suffers to see others saved, not himself.

4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. 5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.

Stronger faith - fruitfulness - boldness - harvest

6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. 7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. 8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

Over 450 miles with Holy Spirit bowling bumpers - because the strike zone is Europe - Phillipi to be exact. North to Bithynia - Nope - South to the Province of Asia (Ephesus) high density of people - Nope - The Holy Spirit Forbid them! How?? Don't know for sure. - God's will, way, time

Circumstances - doors close - so doors can open. Speaks to the heart - through the word, people, prayer - sometimes the supernatural miraculous like a vision -

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

The greatest help we can bring anyone is the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. It is good for us to bring other help along with the gospel, but without the gospel, little real help is given.

Paul is beautifully responsive to the Holy Spirit, he was willing to lay down his will and his plans for the direction that the Holy Spirit brings.

Notice the pronoun changed to "we" from "they" - it appears that Dr. Luke has joined the missions team in Troas.

11 Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day came to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days.

They spiritually and literally had the wind at their backs, making the journey 156 miles in two days - what will later take them five days on a return trip. (Acts 20)

Phillipi is a Roman colony - an outpost of Rome in every way - it was sort of a Rome away from Rome - veterans - tax breaks - entertainment

13 And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there.

The fact that the Jews of Philippi had no synagogue and met by the river means that there were not many Jewish men in Philippi.

14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

Successful asian women living in Europe - running a successful luxury textile business.

Worshipped God - technical term is a God fearer - meant to forsake all the other Gods and embrace the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

the Lord opened her heart. This is a work God must do in all who believe, because as Jesus said, no one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him (John 6:44)

15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

Baptized: It is an outward showing of an inward doing. Romans 6 Paul tells us that when we are baptized "we are buried with Him through baptism into death in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." It is sort of like going into a watery grave.

Persuaded: para force

16 Now it happened, **as we went to prayer**, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

Paul went to prayer -

Demon possessed teenager - spirit of the python - oracle of delphi - temple of Apollo - ventriloquist

17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation."

Now was what she saying true? Absolutely. So why did Paul rebuke this spirit? Because he didn't want Satan as a partner in ministry. That is why.

You know you have to understand that the devil believes certain things. The devil believes Jesus Christ is the Lord. Uh James tells us "the demons believe and tremble." That doesn't mean he is in submission to Him. But he believes it. He acknowledges it.

And this reminds us of a very important principle. Satan has two primary methods of attack in the life of the believer. They are persecution and infiltration.

18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

Paul was annoyed - nonetheless - speaks to the demon - get out of her in Jesus name - immediately she was free.

19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

When infiltration doesn't work - pump up the persecution.

Closer Look: How God Changes three different people - Jesus Christ Changes lives -

Lydia - cosmopolitan, business woman - sold a product that only rich people could afford - beautiful clothes to the rich and famous. God fearer - gentile who left polytheistic paganism to monotheistic God of the Bible OT

She's successful, intelligent, moral - winner of society

She's basically at a Saturday morning prayer meeting down by the river. Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke show up at the meeting and start sharing Jesus. More like community group than Sunday morning.

Lydia responded to - means she was attracted to the Gospel - she heard what Paul had to say and it began to look wonderful to her.

God fearer - left Paganism - empty - no hope - living for self - took on the burden of save yourself through good works. Grace becomes very attractive - love, hope, others, gift.

Slave Girl: she's young 10-14 years old - Spirit of the Python (Oracle of Delphi) - idiomatic expression - a person who told the future - so she was very odd - ventriloquist - troubled - tormented on the inside - acted bizarrely - spoke wildly - shrieked - spoke in different voices - knew things they shouldn't have known (made money)

She's shrieking - over and over - these men tell the truth about salvation. The devil has better theology than you or I - difference is he hates what he knows.

Delbanco - modern people have underestimated the complexity of evil, if you limit all bad things to science - unprepared for how bad it is - there is evil that is both natural and supernatural.

Is she attracted to Paul and Gang, or is she attacking them - is she announcing or denouncing - Yes - Gollum - hates the light loves the light hates the truth loves the truth - yearns for them and mad at them - inner slave controlled by what you worship.

## 180121 Acts 16:1-19 Open Door Open Sea Open Heart Open Home

How does the Gospel come to her - Lydia got a Bible study - this girl got a power encounter - Lydia needed rational - this girl needed powerful.

When temptation comes and tries to win over your heart - do you employ, seek, power encounter - Name of Jesus - Gospel - relying on the Holy Spirit  
What do we learn from these to changed lives.

Importance of women in the early church - authentic church - launch Christianity in Europe - he could have moved on when all he saw was women. Pharisees prayed daily - I thank you God that I am not a woman, gentile, or slave.

She wanted her house to be a place of ministry. She beat Paul in an argument. The importance of opening your home - changed the course of human history - beachhead for the gospel.

We are all addicts, no one wants to believe that we are out of control of our own lives - we all need the Lord to do a breakthrough in our hearts - like Lydia and the slave girl - The Lord opened her heart - the Lord unshackled her heart - struggle for belief - only God can do it -

The main point of this entire chapter - it doesn't matter who you are, you need Jesus, and it doesn't matter what you needs are Jesus can meet them. Can't have two more different people tha Lydia and the Slave girl.

Christianity is so true it is good for everybody - there is no Christian type, and it works for some people and not others - Jesus will meet whatever your need is.

Jesus is so wonderful he is beautiful enough for Lydia, He is powerful enough for the slave girl.