



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

ACTS 15 (Part II) (36-41) & ACTS 16

Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey Begins

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

[Acts 15:36-41](#) Why did Paul & Barnabas part ways? What do we learn?

[Acts 16 \(Mission work in Philippi, Macedonia\)](#)

[1-5: Timothy chosen](#) Why did Paul circumcise Timothy? How did Paul justify this decision as it contradicts his position in Acts 15 & Galatians 2:1-5? What decrees were delivered? [6-10](#) Why does the Spirit close doors? Is it easy to discern such guidance?

[Mission in PHILIPPI, Macedonia](#) (a) [Conversion of Lydia \(13-15\)](#) – How was Lydia saved? What did she do after being saved? (b) [Encounter with slave girl \(16-24\)](#) - How is she set free from her bondage to evil spirits? What was the response of her master? Was she saved?

(c) [Conversion of Jailer \(25-40\)](#) - What were Paul & Silas doing in Prison? What was the purpose of earthquake? What was the important question that the Jailer asked? What was Paul's response to the question? How do we know Jailer had a genuine conversion? How was the conversion of Lydia / Jailer similar / different?

[Personal Reflection](#): Paul began his missionary / great commission journey few years after he was born-again .. How about us? Have we begun our missionary journey yet?

Acts 15/16
09.23.2020

Paul & Barnabas part ways

ACTS 15:36-41

Why did Paul & Barnabas part ways?

What do we learn?

Who replaced Barnabas?

Paul & Barnabas part ways

- **Why did Paul & Barnabas part ways?**
 - Barnabas wanted Mark to join, but Paul did not
 - Maybe Paul was upset about Mark leaving them during 1st journey
- **What lessons do we learn?**
 - No one is immune from making mistakes (not even elders!)
 - Conflicts occur among elders in church / ministry
 - All conflicts should be resolved lovingly and in the spirit of mutual submission
 - Conflict should not hinder the continuation of God's work

Paul & Barnabas part ways

- **Who replaced Barnabas? The ministry continues**
 - Silas (40), a prophet (32)
 - Paul must have observed Silas during his time in Antioch
 - Church approves Paul & Silas (40) (14:26)
 - Went through preaching & strengthening churches (41)



Paul's Second Missionary Journey begins ...

Mission Work in Philippi, Macedonia (Acts 16)

A new co-worker: Timothy Chosen (1-5)

Why did Paul circumcise Timothy?

How did Paul justify this decision as it contradicts his position in
Acts 15 & Galatians 2:1-5?

What decrees were delivered?

Timothy

- Paul back in Derbe (14:20-21) and Lystra (14:8-20)
- **Timothy**
 - Mixed cultural background, Jewish + Greek
 - Believing mother, Eunice, with Jewish background and Greek father (most likely unbeliever), Christian grandmother, Lois (II Timothy 1:5)
 - Timothy most likely saved during Paul's earlier visit to Lystra
 - Lord provides a substitute for Mark through Timothy
 - Timothy is mentored by Paul ... great experience for a young believer! (I Corinthians 4:17 – beloved son, and faithful in the Lord)

Why did Paul circumcise Timothy?

- Paul circumcises Timothy (not for salvation) but to be received by Jews so that they can more easily preach the gospel.
- It does not compromise Paul's original doctrinal position that salvation is by grace alone! That has been discussed and concluded in Acts 15!
- His view on salvation by grace alone is repeated and argued in many of his epistles.

Why did Paul circumcise Timothy?

- We can consider Paul's decision as a cultural adjustment for the sake of gospel ... I Corinthians 9:19-23 ... "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some"

In Galatians 2:3-5 and Acts 15, Paul did not agree as it would have compromised the doctrine.

Paul's final charge to Timothy emphasizes the need to stay true to the doctrine (II Timothy 4:1-3)

- Jesus hated sin, but loved sinners ... "Paul was strong in faith, but soft in love" (Luther) ... we can win more people by showing true love ... sincere love opens many doors!

What decrees were delivered? (verse 4)

- Salvation is by grace alone (Acts 15:19)
- Abstain from pollution of idols, from fornication, from things strangled, and from blood (Acts 15:20)
- Outcome:
 - Churches strengthened (15:32, 41) and grew like Acts 2:47
 - Strong churches critical for continuing work of the Lord

Ministry Doors Closed by the Holy Spirit

Is that even possible?

Why did Holy Spirit close doors? How did they find out?

Is it easy to discern or accept closed doors?

Closed doors & new door (6-10)

- Asia refers to Asia Minor (modern day Turkey)
- Paul ends up in Troas (after Asia and Mysia closed)
- Blocked door may have been confirmed by the inner prompting of the Holy Spirit, still small voice) or by Silas (prophet)
- **Is it easy to discern or accept closed doors?** (ex. Bro Bakht Singh declines White house invitation ... how many of us would have said No?)
 - God can also create closed doors through circumstances (such as travel ban canceling mission plans, health constraints). **Warning:** need to be cautious and prayerful in interpreting 'circumstances' as God's will
- God's perfect will confirmed in verse 10



Mission in Philippi, Macedonia

THREE POWERFUL EXPERIENCES

Lydia and household saved (13-15)

Slave girl liberated of demonic attacks (16-18)

Roman Jailer and household saved (19-40)

Conversion and Baptism of Lydia and her household (13-15)

Who was Lydia?

How was she saved?

What did she do after being saved?

Lydia's conversion & baptism

- **Who was Lydia?**

- Seller of purple, moved to Philippi from Thyatira (Rev 2:18)
- Worshipper of God (but not saved)

- **Conversion of Lydia**

- Listened to the Word
- Lord opened her heart
- Took baptism with her household
- First convert in Europe

Post-baptism experience of Lydia

- Opened her home
 - shows hospitality (Practice hospitality, Romans 12:13, I Peter 4:9)
 - eagerness to hear more of God's word from Paul
- Lydia was likely one of the first members of Philippi local church
- Lord must opens our hearts for gospel to enter and take effect. Saving of souls is the work of the Lord. ... "Lord added to their number daily" (Acts 2:47)

Paul's encounter with the slave girl (16-24)

How is she set free from her bondage to evil spirits?

What was the response of her master?

Was she saved?

Paul's encounter with the slave girl

- Demon possessed slave girl who could predict the future
 - Exploited by her master to predict future and make money
- The evil spirit ... introduced them as the servants of most High, knowing the way to salvation (even Devils know God and Tremble)
- Paul annoyed by demon's witness (18) and wanted her silenced just like Jesus (Matthew 8:28-34, Mark 3:11-12)
- Paul used the power of Jesus Christ to drive out the demons
- It is quite possible she was saved and baptized (not mentioned)

Paul's encounter with the slave girl

- Demon possessed slave girl who could predict the future
 - Exploited by her master to predict future and make money
- The evil spirit ... introduced them as the servants of most High, knowing the way to salvation (even Demons believe there is a God, James 2:19)
- Paul annoyed by demon's witness (18) and wanted her silenced
- Paul used the name of Jesus Christ to drive out the demons (18)

Reaction of Slave's master

- Not gratitude that she has been set free from demons
 - But anger that their source of income has been taken away
- Accused Paul of being a Jew and creating racial tension
- Paul and Silas beaten, and imprisoned

Conversion and Baptism of Jailer and his household (25-40)

What were Paul & Silas doing in Prison?

What was the purpose of earthquake?

What was the important question that the Jailer asked?

What was Paul's response to the question?

How do we know Jailer had a genuine conversion?

How was the conversion of Lydia / Jailer similar / different?

Earthquake in Prison

- Paul & Silas in chains but singing
 - Israelites complained, How can we sing? (Psalms 137:4)
 - **How about us? Do we sing or complain when in distress?**
 - Isaiah 26:3, Philippians 4:6 / 7 (Peace in Anxiety) James 1:2 (Joy in suffering)
- Praise leads to earthquake
- **What was the purpose of earthquake?**
 - Not to free Paul & Silas,
but a miracle that will lead to Jailer's salvation

Jailer's reaction

- Earthquake & open doors
 - jailer panics thinking Paul & Silas have escaped
 - wants to commit suicide
 - Stopped by Paul
 - Surprised by Paul's words and action
- Personal Reflection: Does our behavior surprise those around us? Or is there no difference between us and the world? Are we a light in this dark world?

One of the most important question in the Bible

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

THERE IS ONLY ONE CORRECT ANSWER

BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Baptism leads to changed behavior and Rejoicing

- Paul's answer to the question (31) and continued ministry (32) lead to the baptism of Jailer and his household
- Two important changes
 - Washed their stripes
 - Extends hospitality
- **Conclusion** (34)
 - Rejoiced because of believing in God (Rejoicing ... end result of true salvation experience and baptism, similar to Eunuch in Acts 8:39)

**In what way was Lydia and
Jailer's conversion
similar/different?**

Lydia and Jailer conversions

Similar

- Both Saved
- Immediate baptism
- Immediate changes
- Household saved

Different

- Opening of heart Vs. earthquake and opening of prison doors (God speaks in different ways)
- Lydia (worshipper of God, but not saved) Vs. Jailer (probably unbeliever)
... but both need salvation

Release of Paul & Silas, 35-40

- Paul and Silas return to Jail and are Released the next day
- Paul and Silas insist on honorable discharge as they are Roman citizens and should not have been beaten up
- Leave the city after visiting Lydia's home and believers
- Later Paul writes to Philippi Church in one of his epistle

Follow up by Paul to Philippi church

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: ² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, (**Philippians, 1:1-5, NIV**)

- Philippi church *probably* included Lydia, Jailer, and maybe the slave girl.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Paul began his missionary / great commission journey few years after he was born-again ...

How about us?

Have we begun our missionary journey yet?