

The Acts of the Apostles

Chapter 16

The Second Missionary Journey

Focus Verse: 1 Peter 2:19,20

"For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God."

I. Introduction

- A. Currently Studying the book of the Acts of the Apostles.
- B. The importance of understanding that Acts is a transitional book:
 1. The emphasis is changing in Acts from being placed upon the Jews to being placed upon the Gentiles.
 2. These changes make a perfect breeding ground for doctrinal heresy since things are in a state of "change."
 3. An example of this was seen in Chapter 15 with Jews trying to teach that a man had to become a Jew and keep the Law to be saved.

II. Lesson - The Second Missionary Journey

- A. **The Return to the Mission Field** (15:40,41) It is now Paul and Silas without Barnabas.
 1. Headed back to the churches they had started - missed them, and wanted to make sure they were growing, and spreading out!
 2. They head what direction? North-by-northwest. Special direction.
- B. **The Recruiting of Timotheus, (Timothy)** (16:1-5; 2 Tim 1:5)
 1. Timothy was a _____ with a godly mother and grandmother.
 2. But Timothy was a half-breed in the minds of the Jews.
 3. He had a very good reputation:
 - a. All Christians thought well of him - what a testimony!
 - b. Had unfeigned or _____ faith - not faked
 - c. Had set out to do right from his youth - instead of living like the devil, and then trying to get right later!
 4. Paul chooses Timothy - Like Elijah chose _____
 5. It cost Timothy to serve God:
 - a. He had to be _____ - not for his own salvation, but for that of the Jews. What are **you** willing to do so others can be saved?
 - b. Had to work UNDER somebody - didn't start at the top! Had to put up with Paul, so that he could learn from, and serve with, all for God's glory, and many soul's salvation! Play second fiddle!
 6. First Task - Deliver the letter from Jerusalem (16:4,5)
 - a. Guidelines (decrees) on HOW to ACT in front of the Jews
 - b. Because they understood the New Testament is all about "others," and since they easily yielded, the churches grew **daily**!
- C. **Recognizing God's Will and Direction** (vss 6-8; Eph 5:17)
 1. You must be in _____, i.e., you must already be in God's will as best you know how. Not in BIG ways, but just faithful in small things!
 - a. Obeying the clear commands that you know showed be lived: in the Bible, praying, tithing, in church, soul-winning
 - b. Open to God giving you further instructions as you go - learning
 2. You must be _____ God's will - asking for it, and accepting it!
 3. You must be willing to "try the doors" - of opportunity - pray and ask ____ to open doors, and to CLOSE them if He thinks best!
 4. You must be sensitive (able to sense God's indications) - don't always be like a tank ramming through closed doors!
 5. You must seek a "vision" from God. Not a "pizza" vision, but rather a "God-given" _____ - a heart pain to do something for God!
 6. SUMMARY: God's will is impressed upon the Christian who is searching for it by constantly seeking to *serve*, and is willing to do whatever God wants them to - there will be great joy, and peace when you discover God's will, and then there will be miraculous events that propel you forward into the center of God's will!
- D. **Receiving the "Macedonian Call"** (vss 9-13)
 1. Again, they head West right into _____

2. The vision asked specifically for "_____." The Gospel **HELPS**:
 - a. By turning people back to God, Bible, sanity - **salvation**
 - b. By cleaning up lives, homes, cities - **sanctification**
 - c. By focusing our attention on glorifying God - **servicing**
3. And away they go _____. No procrastination here - headed out to "preach the gospel" (an urgent task)!
4. _____ joins Paul and Silas here - from here on, people start crowding around Paul, and Paul starts duplicating himself in the lives of others
5. They go right to Phillippi, the chief city of Macedonia in Greece.

E. **The Salvation of Lydia** - The First European Convert (vss 14,15)

1. She _____ God - Like _____ (Acts 10:1,2) - but not saved. The women there gathered together regularly to PRAY, not gossip. Women used to know the urgency of prayer groups, and dependence upon God, even though not Christian - there is something inside that craves to walk again with our Creator.
2. She probably had been praying for _____ (16:9) - like Cornelius did in Acts 10:4. Help in understanding God, the Bible, salvation, etc.
3. Paul preached the _____ to all the women there. Did not treat them as already saved, but told them about Christ - they had to examine themselves and see if what they believed was what the Bible said!
4. Then the Lord opened (unlocked) her _____.
 - a. Satan closes the heart and keeps it blind (2Cor 4:3,4; Act 26:18) - unable to see God's light, nor see a way out of bondage to sin
 - b. A person must seek by a surrendered heart to have God show them the way out - Danger: Satan uses this to just keep people going further into bondage
 - c. It is God who opens (unlocks) the heart
5. Lydia _____ the gospel, and THEN, and only then was _____.
 - a. Not sprinkled - immersed!
 - b. Her household also believed and were baptized - issue: **Covenant Theology** (reformed theology of the Protestants) takes this verse and makes it so that if an adult becomes a Christian, then all the family is to be baptized to ensure that THEY become Christians as well - makes no sense at all! Belief then baptism in every case (Acts 2:41; 8:34)

F. **Satan is Never far Behind** (vss 16-21)

1. When they started to pray - trouble shows up - always the same
2. Here comes a "damsel of divination." (fortune teller)
 - a. A Prophetess (Profitess - capitalism: making money off of religion, like Christmas)
 - b. Demon-possessed
 - c. Spoke the truth about Paul and Silas - mocking, and making the Gospel a "side show"
3. Paul picks up on what Satan is trying to do and stops it cold! Why?
 - a. Everyone knew the woman was of the devil
 - b. People would have thought the two were alike - ecumenism
 - c. People would have concluded that all gods were the same - no better than their current god (like Pharaoh's magicians duplicating everything that Moses and Aaron did)
 - d. Paul did not need the devil's help to get people to believe - **and neither do we!!!** Interdenominational cooperation is not of God - makes people comfortable where they are at spiritually instead of telling them to repent, and get right (1 Tim 1:3; 2 Tim 2:2)
4. When you kick the Devil out of control, religion becomes very unprofitable to the world. Religion can make no more money on people, nor can the distillers, nor the pornographers, etc!
 - a. Causes intense hatred by religionists - they become killers
 - b. Causes Christians to be persecuted instead of the real trouble makers - you would think that people would thank Christianity!
 - 1) Teachers of evolution, and social engineering are tolerated
 - 2) Liquor sellers are tolerated - because they pay large taxes!
 - 3) Drug dealers are tolerated - especially when they start paying taxes
 - 4) Rock singers are tolerated
 - 5) But Christians are hated and shoved away!

G. **Suffering Wrongfully** (vss 22-25; 1 Pet 2:19,20)

1. They were publicly _____ - stripped
2. They were publicly beaten
3. They were thrown into prison

4. They were placed in stocks - to make it see that these guys were so dangerous that they had to be locked-down so they could not get out - maximum-security prison!

H. Supernatural Soul-winning (vss 26-34)

1. Soul-winning starts "at _____" for Paul and Silas. They prayed and sang the entire time they were in jail
 - a. Easy to sing on the mountaintop, or during the day
 - b. Job talks about the songs in the night (Job 35:10)
 - c. Paul and Silas sing LOUD and CLEAR - so everyone could hear the message of the songs - NOT the MELODY! The melody, rhythm, beat, or swing of a song never won a soul!
2. Now, God can step in - He has been _____ - people have been prepared for His arrival (as John the Baptist prepared hearts and lives for the arrival of Jesus; Mt 3:1-3)
 - a. Earthquake
 - b. Doors open up
 - c. Everyone just sits, and it quiet, and calm
3. The Jailer goes crazy with fear - fear of death! _____ is a great motivator to Christ (Jude 21-23)!
 - a. Fears the earthquake killing him
 - b. Fears the loosed prisoners killing him
 - c. Fears his boss literally killing him for letting the prisoners free
 - d. Fears something else happening - out of his control
4. Paul speaks first - "*Do thyself no harm!*" Paul cared not for his own life (it was in the hands of Jesus)! But he cared for the life of those who would be lost for eternity in hell. Suicide, drugs, etc., are things that harm people beyond the physical- if they die they end up in hell!
5. The Jailer asks the greatest question: "*What must I do to be _____?*" He had heard about SALVATION! Not Christianity, or about church, or about theology, but about heaven, and hell, and forgiveness, and Jesus the SAVIOUR!
6. The greatest answer (I'm glad Paul was there and not a JW, or Mormon, or a Catholic priest):
 - a. _____ on the Lord Jesus Christ - already of a repentant heart
 - b. **And thou shalt be _____** - no ifs, ands, or buts! Eternity settled!
 - c. **And thy _____** - It won't just affect you, it will affect everyone you touch, and is dear to you! That is how Christianity works!
7. The Jailer brings home all these prisoners, and Paul and Silas preaches to them all, including all of the Jailer's household - they all get saved, and THEN get baptized - there was great rejoicing!

I. Spiritual Obstinacy (vss 35-40) - A time for Paul to be stubborn

1. Now it is Paul's turn to have some fun
 - a. Paul is a Roman _____ who has been publicly beaten and judged without a trial
 - b. Paul could have brought all the magistrates to ruin - could have gotten even with them. They wanted everything to be low-key now, and for Paul and Silas to leave quietly
2. But Paul is interested in _____ - interested in THEM doing some fearing, and thinking. Not interested in his **rights**, but in reminding them that they must do right - Paul's life was in God's hand!
3. So, Paul just makes the magistrates sweat a little, and then come to them - it is humiliating now for the magistrates
4. Paul, and Silas head back to spend some time with Lydia, and the Christian _____ that was developing at her house!

III. Conclusion - What We Learned From Acts 16

- A. Understanding God's Will
- B. Satan Never Gives Up
- C. Be Ready To Suffer Wrongfully
- D. Be A Supernatural Soul-winner - Always, in All Situations!

IV. Study Questions