



## *ACTS – Living in the Promises of Jesus*

### **Acts 16**

### **Lesson 13**

It appears that Paul and Silas had an itinerary for their second missionary journey. However, God had other plans for them. In this 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts, we will see how God both closes doors and opens them. We will see how Paul and Silas responded to both. May we join them in their *immediate* obedience.

#### **OBSERVATION: Read Acts 16**

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and Paul* (and those with him).

Key Words: *God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, all references to Paul and those with him, baptized, and believe(d)/saved/salvation/gospel*

3. The contrasting word *but* is used seven times in Acts 16. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, was used two times in Acts 16. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times; record the conclusion and what it was based upon.
5. As you read of the cities visited by Paul and Silas in Acts 16, retrace their journey using the map on page 2.



### TIMOTHY JOINS PAUL AND SILAS: Read Acts 16:1-5

1. Paul and Silas *came to Derbe and Lystra*. Who was there?
  - a. Using Acts 16:1-2, share three things revealed about *Timothy*.
  - b. Later in his letters, Paul referred to Timothy as his *son in the faith*. Recalling that Paul's first missionary journey included the city of Lystra, Timothy could have become a believer at that time. Acts 16:3 tells us that *Paul wanted to have him go on with him*. What did Paul do to Timothy?
    - 1.) What reason for this are we given in this verse?
2. The decision of the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15) was that circumcision was not necessary for salvation. What did Paul write in Galatians 5:6?
  - a. Timothy was half-Jewish. Although *circumcision* does nothing in regards to salvation, what might have been the benefit of *circumcising* Timothy?
  - b. Using 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, explain Paul's philosophy as it might relate to having Timothy *circumcised*.
    - 1.) What might be some examples of this reasoning?

3. How does Acts 16:4 verify that Paul was compliant with the apostles' determinations in Acts 15?
4. What was the result of Paul's second visit to Derbe and Lystra? verse 5
  - a. Teaching focused on *strengthening* our *faith* is crucial. Give just one example of how your *faith* has been *strengthened* through the teaching of God's word.

### **THE MACEDONIAN CALL: Read Acts 16:6-10**

1. *Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, what happened?*
  - a. *After they had come to Mysia, what happened?*
    - 1.) Paul was being guided by "hindrance". What does this say to you about the importance of viewing a "closed door" as something orchestrated by the Lord for your good?  
Optional: Share a personal example
2. We are not told the means by which the Holy Spirit hindered them. What are some different ways that the Holy Spirit could have hindered Paul and Silas?
  - a. What are some ways the Holy Spirit has spoken to or guided you?
    - 1.) What criteria do you use to help you know if it is the Holy Spirit speaking to you or not?
  - b. Possibly, the Holy Spirit spoke through someone to Paul. What are some of your thoughts when you consider someone giving you a message from the Lord that is contrary to what you think you want to hear?
3. When they were in Troas, *a vision appeared to Paul in the night*. What was the *vision*?
4. Acts 16:10 contains two important words. The first is *immediately*. What does this say to you about Paul and those with him?
  - a. The second important word is a little two letter word that follows the word *immediately*. What is the word?
    - 1.) Who do you think joined Paul at this time?

5. In the vision, the man from Macedonia *pleaded with Paul saying, "Come over Macedonia and help us."* What *help* did Paul *conclude* they needed?
  - a. Why is the *gospel* the answer to man's cry for *help*?
    - 1.) Describe your experience when you realized the *gospel* was the answer you were looking for.

### **MINISTRY IN PHILIPPI: Acts 16:11-15**

1. Acts 16:11 begins with the word *therefore*. When used to describe a person's response to God's instructions, the word *therefore* is always present – *therefore*, she did nothing, *therefore*, she did according to her own desires, or *therefore*, she obeyed. What does a person believe who finds herself primarily living the latter *therefore*?
2. It was the custom of Paul and Silas to go to the local synagogues to share the gospel. Acts 16:13 reveals that they went to the *riverside where prayer was customarily made*. This hints that, there being no synagogue, there were few Jews in Philippi. God brought *a certain woman* to the *riverside*. What does verse 14 tell us about her?
3. Although *Lydia* was a woman *who worshiped God*, what did the Lord *open her heart to heed*?
4. Luke recorded the story of Cornelius in Acts 10, describing him as *a devout man who feared God*. Why do *devout* people who *fear* and *worship* God need to heed the gospel?
  - a. What is the difference between hearing and *heeding*?
  - b. What did God do to Lydia's heart so that she could *heed the things spoken by Paul*?
    - 1.) What are some things that you do to *open your heart* when the word of God is being spoken?

## PAUL AND SILAS IMPRISONED: Read Acts 16:16-24

1. Acts 16:16-18 recounts the story of a *slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination*. What did she say about Paul and those with him?
  - a. Luke described a similar instance in Luke 4:41. What did the *demons cry out*?
2. Neither Jesus nor Paul wanted to be promoted by demons. What does Acts 16:18 say that Paul said to the (demon) *spirit*?
3. This demon possessed woman had brought much profit to her *masters* through *fortune-telling*. When she was freed of the *spirit*, *their hope of profit was gone*. What accusations did her *masters* bring before the city *magistrates*? verses 19-21
  - a. What did the *magistrates* do in response to the accusations? verses 22-24

## THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER SAVED: Read Acts 16:25-34

1. Acts 16:25 begins with the contrasting word *but*. What might we expect someone to do who has been unjustly imprisoned?
  - a. *But....*what were Paul and Silas doing?
    - 1.) They were not *singing* or *praying* so that no one could hear them. How do we know this?
2. *Suddenly*, what happened? verses 26-27
3. The *keeper of the prison* feared his execution and thus, *was about to kill himself*. Paul reassured him that he and Silas and the rest of the prisoners were still in their prison cells. If Paul would have chosen to escape, what question of the *keeper of the prison* would not have been asked?
  - a. *What must I do to be saved*? What is ALWAYS the answer to that question? verse 31
    - 1.) Why? (Record the words of Acts 4:12)
4. The words *you and your household* indicate that the same answer is available for all who ask the question. What does Acts 16:33,34 disclose about those in the prison keeper's *household*?

## PAUL REFUSES TO DEPART SECRETLY: Read Acts 16:35-40

1. In previous times, God sent an angel to set Peter free from prison and told Peter to escape. The next morning, Paul and Silas are still in prison. The magistrates sent instructions to let them go and to *depart and go in peace*. Paul refused to leave. What did he say to them? verse 37
  - a. What words did Paul use to describe himself and Silas?
2. According to verse 38, why were the magistrates *afraid*?
  - a. After *pleading* with Paul and Silas, they *went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia*. Then, what did Paul and Silas do?

## REVIEW: Read Acts 16

1. What can we learn from:
  - Paul's choice to circumcise Timothy?
  - Paul's response to the hindering of the Holy Spirit?
  - Lydia's open heart (and home)?
  - Paul and Silas' example when beaten and imprisoned?
  - Paul and Silas' example after they were released from prison?
2. What was your favorite part in this lesson? Why?

*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.*

*- John 6:47*

## Observation Worksheet

### Acts 16:1-40

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. <sup>2</sup> He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. <sup>8</sup> So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> 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." <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day came to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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." <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; <sup>21</sup> and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." <sup>22</sup> Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup> Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. <sup>25</sup> But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. <sup>27</sup> And the keeper of the prison,

awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. <sup>28</sup> But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup> Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. <sup>34</sup> Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household. <sup>35</sup> And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "Let those men go." <sup>36</sup> So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace." <sup>37</sup> But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out." <sup>38</sup> And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. <sup>39</sup> Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city. <sup>40</sup> So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.