



Mission

Taking Jesus
to the World

God's Amazing Ways

Acts 16:11-40

Pastor Nathan Mains – Jan 31, 2010



Paul is on a Mission

The team is @ Troas

Acts 16 [Seatback Bibles p 785]

9 *During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."*

10 *After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia...*

☐ Who is "we"? Is there someone besides Paul, Silas, & Timothy [picked up in Lystra]

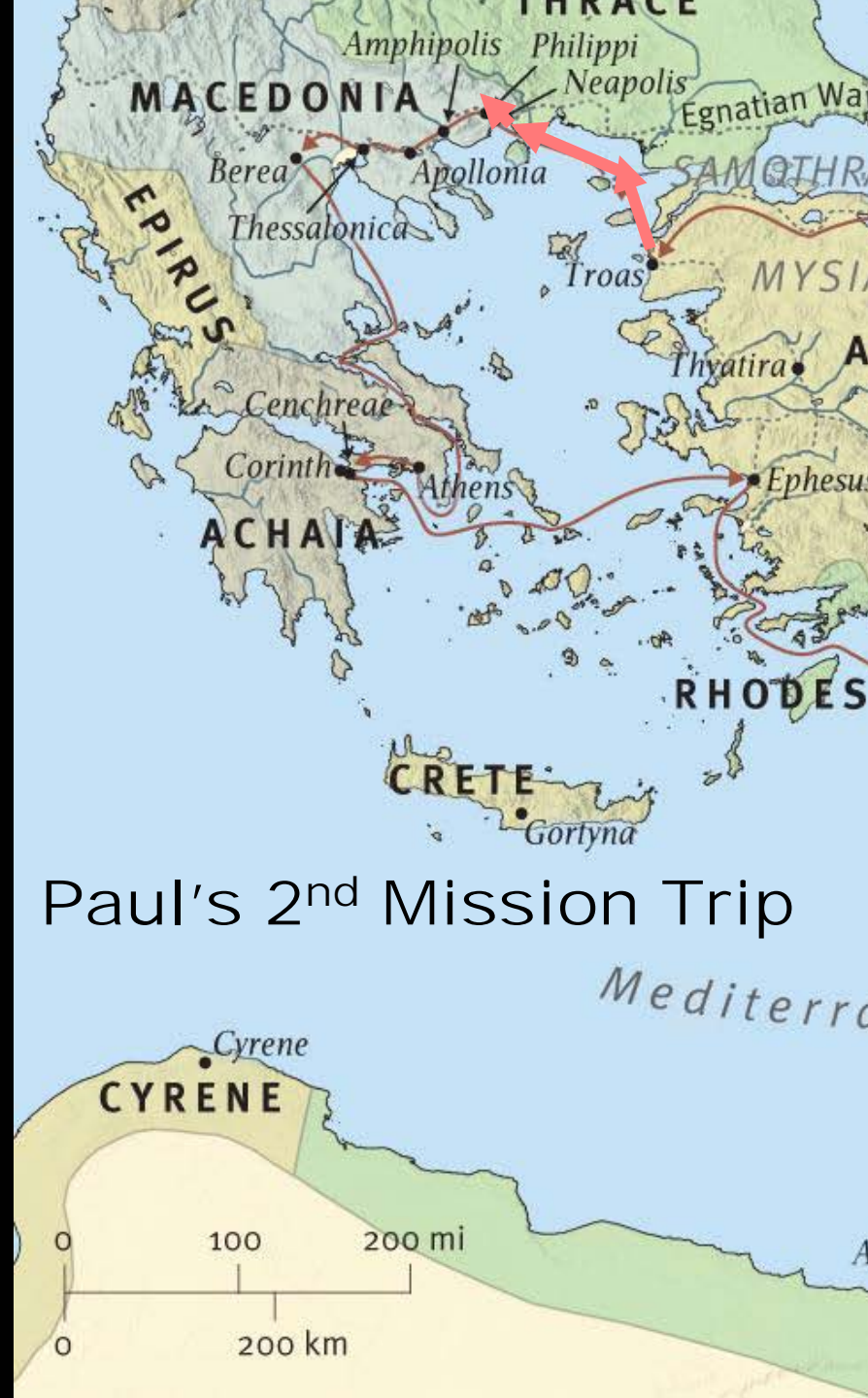
☐ Did the author of Acts, just join the team? > Luke

☐ Best Next Step Mission Decision Making

10 *...we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. (NIV)*

Acts 16:11 *From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis.*

12 *From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. (NIV)*



Paul's 2nd Mission Trip

16:13 *On the Sabbath...*

➤ Remember Paul's mission pattern?

we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer.

We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.

14 One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God.

The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. (NIV)

God is, right now, working in the hearts of people that you will be crossing paths with.

Since God is working in the hearts of people that we will be crossing paths with we should be encouraged & motivated

☐ Mission success is not up to us

☐ God is at work in ways we do not know, drawing people to Himself. It could be anyone.

☐ We have the awesome privilege joining what God is up to. It's our Mission

Colossians 4:5-6 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (NIV)

How might God want you to embrace His Mission?

- ❑ Consider those your path will cross.
- ❑ God might have been working in their hearts, drawing them to Himself and aligning their paths to intersect with yours.
- ❑ God invites you to join what He is up to, His Mission, without knowing whose hearts are prepared. It could be anyone.
- ❑ Your best next mission step may be to walk with one or more of those people through the next few steps on their journey towards Christ.
- ❑ There is nothing more rewarding you could do!

Lydia trusts Christ, then what?

Acts 16:15 *When she and the members of her household were baptized,*

- Have you been baptized since believing?
 - Our next Believer's Baptism is April 18
 - ☐ Then what?

16:15 *...she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us. (NIV)*

- ☐ Lydia immediately begins serving
 - Have you found an outlet for serving?
 - Imagine what could happen if all of us had Lydia's attitude about serving?

The Mission is going well in Philippi

Acts 16:16 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future.

She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.

17 This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved."

18 She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!"

At that moment the spirit left her. (NIV)

How will her owners respond?

19 *When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities.*

20 *They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar*

➤ *How?*

21 *by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."* (NIV)

➤ *Fearing future income loss they tap into anti-Jewish prejudice and falsely charge Paul's team with fomenting illegal & unpatriotic attitudes & activities.*

How will the crowd & authorities respond? Will they be fair?

Acts 16:22 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten.

➤ No trial, no listening to both sides

23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.

24 Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

➤ How is the Mission going now?

So, what's the best next thing now?

16:25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, (NIV)

How to Worship no matter what

1. Remember Jesus suffered first

2. Remember God is at Work

...in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. - Rom 8:28

3. Remember God loves you

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? - Rom 8:35 (NIV)

How to Worship no matter what

4. Remember that healing will come

5. Remember how our story ends –

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain

Revelation 21:4-5

➤ Know too: God can & will powerfully use our Worship in amazing ways

*Acts 16:25 ...and the **other prisoners were listening to them.***

26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. (NIV)

How might this impact the jailer?

16:27 The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped.

28 But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

29 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas.

30 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (NIV)

□ At the worst of times and in the least likely of people God may be at work in amazing ways for the continued advancement of His Mission

So, what must one do to be saved?

16:31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.

□ We can assume by what follows that the jailer & all those in his household believed and were saved

16:33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; > just like Lydia the jailer begins serving right away

33 ...then immediately he and all his family were baptized. (NIV)

➤ **Have you been baptized since believing?**

Did I mention our next Believer's Baptism is April 18?

What will happen now?

Acts 16:34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God-- he and his whole family.

35 When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: "Release those men."

36 The jailer told Paul, "The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace." (NIV)

□ So that's it? The team leaves and heads to the next Mission location?

First, some unfinished business...

16:37 But Paul said to the officers: "They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison.

And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No!

Let them come themselves and escort us out."

38 The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed.

*39 They came to **appease** them and **escorted** them from the prison, **requesting** them to leave the city.*

☐ So, will the team leave now?

There's no rush

Acts 16:40 After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and encouraged them.

Then they left. (NIV)

- Note: Paul's response here is other-centered, functioning to protect the baby church from possible future unjust treatment and abuse from the magistrates after his team left town.

5 Take Away Truths from Paul @ Philippi

1. Being all-in with Christ's Mission, fully aware that it will involve hard times, doesn't mean we shouldn't make things right and expose injustice when it is in our power to do so. Jesus followers should be courageous, not be cowardly wimps.

5 Take Away Truths from Paul @ Philippi

2. Believing in the Lord Jesus is how one gets saved.
3. Believer's Baptism is how believers in Christ publicly identify themselves as followers of Jesus and embracers of His Mission.
 - Did I mention our next Believer's Baptism is April 18?
4. God is working in the hearts of people who will cross our paths. Making the most of path-crossing opportunities is our Mission
5. God can & will powerfully use our Worship in amazing ways, so worship no matter what is happening--God loves you and has good in mind

Next Week:
Responses Will Vary

- ❑ Not everyone will respond positively to your Mission efforts or to God's Word.
- ❑ Next week we'll consider the differences between how Thessalonica & Berea respond to Paul's team and God's Word. - Acts 17:1-15

