



## MIDWEEK FILLUP | THE STUDY OF ACTS

### ACTS 16

#### OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

1. To trace the route of Paul and Silas on their missionary journey
2. To consider whether the Spirit led Paul through impressions or some other less subjective way
3. To study carefully the conversions of Lydia and the Philippian jailer

#### SUMMARY

With this chapter we find Paul on his second missionary journey that began in Acts 15:40 with Paul and Silas passing through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening churches along the way. In Derbe and Lystra, Paul enlisted a young disciple named Timothy who would become a life-long fellow-worker in the kingdom. His mother was a believing Jew (cf. 2 Timothy 1:5) but his father was Greek, so with many Jews in the region Paul had Timothy circumcised. As Paul's company traveled through Phrygia and Galatia, they delivered the decrees from the apostles and elders in Jerusalem and strengthened the churches (1-5).

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit they found themselves in Troas, where Paul had a vision of a man from Macedonia asking for help. Concluding that the Lord was calling them to preach the gospel there, Paul's company left Troas accompanied by the author of Acts himself, as indicated by the first person pronoun plural "we" (6-10).

From Troas to Samothrace and then Neapolis, the company finally arrived in Philippi. A major city of Macedonia and Roman colony, it marked Paul's first ministry on the European continent. On the Sabbath Paul and his companions went down to the river where women were praying. As Paul spoke, a religious business woman of Thyatira named Lydia listened. The Lord opened her heart to heed Paul, which resulted in her and her household being baptized. She then persuaded Paul and his companions to stay at her house (11-15).

Paul and his company were soon followed by a slave girl possessed by a spirit of divination that made money for her owners through fortune telling. For days she cried out, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." While true, it annoyed Paul (probably because it was not of her own free will) and he cast the spirit out in the name of Jesus. This greatly angered the girl's masters, who had Paul and Silas beaten and imprisoned. At midnight while Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns, a great earthquake shook the prison and broke free their chains. Assuming all had fled, the jailer was

about to kill himself when Paul stopped him. When the jailor asked what he must do to be saved, Paul and Silas told him to believe on the Lord Jesus, and then proceeded to teach him and his family the word of the Lord. That same night, the entire family was baptized. In the morning, the magistrates sent word to release Paul and Silas, but Paul demanded a personal release as they were Roman citizens who were beaten and imprisoned without trial. Scared, the magistrates came and pleaded with Paul and Silas to leave the city, which they did after a short visit to Lydia's house to encourage the brethren. Note that the author's return to the use of "they" indicates that Luke stayed behind in Philippi (16-40).

## **OUTLINE**

### **1. TIMOTHY JOINS PAUL AND SILAS (1-5)**

#### **a. TIMOTHY'S BACKGROUND (1-3)**

- i. Paul and Silas travel to Derbe and Lystra, where they meet Timothy
- ii. A disciple, whose mother was a Jewish Christian and father was Greek
- iii. Well spoken of by the brethren at Lystra and Iconium

#### **b. TIMOTHY'S CIRCUMCISION (3)**

- i. Paul wants Timothy to join him
- ii. Paul has Timothy circumcised, on account of the Jews in the region

#### **c. TIMOTHY'S FIRST MISSION (4-5)**

- i. Traveling with Paul and Silas, they deliver the decrees from Jerusalem
- ii. The churches are strengthened, increasing in number daily

### **2. THE MACEDONIA CALL (6-10)**

#### **a. DIRECTED BY THE SPIRIT (6-8)**

- i. Passing through Phrygia and Galatia, the Spirit forbids them from preaching in Asia
- ii. Nearing Mysia, they try to go to Bithynia, but the Spirit does not permit them
- iii. Bypassing Mysia, they arrive in Troas

#### **b. CALLED BY A VISION (9-10)**

- i. Paul has a vision of a Macedonian man asking for help
- ii. Paul and his companions conclude God wants them to go to Macedonia
- iii. The use of "we" indicates Luke, the author, has now joined them

### **3. III. CONVERSIONS AT PHILIPPI (11-40)**

#### **a. THE CONVERSION OF LYDIA (11-15)**

- i. From Troas, by way of Samothrace and Neapolis, Paul's company arrive at Philippi of Macedonia, a Roman colony
- ii. On the Sabbath, they meet with women gathered by the river to pray and Paul speaks
- iii. Lydia, who worshiped God, listens and the Lord opens her heart to heed Paul
- iv. She and her household are baptized, and persuades Paul's company to stay at her house

**b. THE CONVERSION OF THE JAILER (16-40)**

- i. On the way to prayer, Paul's and his companions are followed by a slave girl
  - 1. Who was possessed with a spirit of divination
  - 2. Who had brought her masters much profit through fortune telling
- ii. She proclaims Paul's company to be servants of God, proclaiming the way of salvation
  - 1. This she does for many days, which annoys Paul
  - 2. Paul therefore casts out the spirit in the name of Jesus
- iii. Her masters seize Paul and Silas, and drag them before the magistrates
  - 1. Where they are accused as troublemakers, teaching unlawful customs
  - 2. Where they are beaten with rods, then imprisoned with feet in stocks
- iv. At midnight, Paul and Silas are praying and singing hymns, the prisoners listening
- v. There is a great earthquake, opening the doors and loosening the prisoners' chains
- vi. The jailer comes in, assumes all have escaped, prepares to kill himself
- vii. Paul cries out with a loud voice to stop him, assuring him that all were still there
- viii. The jailer asks for a light, falls before Paul and Silas, and asks what he must do to be saved
  - 1. They first tell him to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ
  - 2. They then speak the word of the Lord to him and his household
  - 3. That same hour he washes their stripes, then he and his household are baptized
  - 4. He then takes Paul and Silas to his house, feeds them, and rejoices that he and his household has believed in God
- ix. The next day the magistrates send officers to release Paul and Silas
  - 1. When the jailer tells Paul he is free to go, Paul demands that the magistrates come personally, as they have beaten Roman citizens without a trial
  - 2. So the magistrates come, release Paul and Silas, and plead for them to leave the city

- x. Returning to Lydia's house, Paul and Silas encourage the brethren, then leave Philippi