

# Paul's Second Missionary Journey

## The Life and Ministry of Paul—part 7

August 7, 2016

### DAY 1: "Lord, Where Should We Go?"

1. Paul teams up with Silas. They leave Antioch and travel by foot, north through Syria, then west into Cilicia strengthening the new churches. (15:41)

2. He returns to the cities of Derbe, then Lystra where he had nearly been stoned to death and left for dead. Timothy, a disciple, joins the missionary team. (16:1-3)

*Acts 16:6a Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia...*

3. Phrygia is just west of where Paul traveled on the first journey, and Galatia is just north of where Paul traveled on the first journey.

*Acts 16:6b...having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.*

4. The Asian province is different than our modern day continent of Asia. The province of Asia was northwest of their current location. Why couldn't they travel into Asia?

*Acts 16:7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. <sup>8</sup> So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.*

5. Bithynia was due east, toward the Black Sea. Why couldn't they enter Bithynia?

6. By this time, they were probably confused as to where to go. Door after door was shut.

*Acts 16:9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."*

7. Macedonia is a province in modern day Greece, on the continent of Europe! How did Paul know the team was to head to Macedonia?

8. The next day, Paul shared *his* vision with the team.

*Acts 16:10 After **Paul** had seen the vision, **we** got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called **us** to preach the gospel to them.*

9. How did the team of Silas, Timothy, and now Luke (notice the change of pronouns from "they" to "we") know that God wanted them to go to Macedonia?

10. What do you take away from the beginning of this mission journey?

## DAY 2: Philippi

1. The mission team sail by boat across the Aegean Sea, ending in the port city of Philippi. Paul heads outside the city to the river, striking up conversations with a group of women.

*Acts 16:14 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. <sup>15</sup> When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house."*

3. Underline the factors that led to Lydia's conversion to Christ.

4. After this event, a demon-possessed woman was delivered from an evil spirit. There were a few men that had managed to make money from her. When that disappeared, they brought false charges against Paul and Silas, had them arrested, stripped, beaten, flogged and placed in stocks.

*Acts 16:25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.*

5. What strikes you about Paul and Silas's response to the beating and flogging they took?

*Acts 16:26 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.*

6. What would you have done if you were Paul and Silas?

*Acts 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.*

*Luke 16:28 But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" <sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, 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 the others in his house. <sup>33</sup> At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. <sup>34</sup> 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.*

7. Underline the factors that brought this jailer to faith in Christ.

8. The jailer's household (family and servants) become Christians! Where does this occur? (v.34)

*Acts 16:35 When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: "Release those men."*

9. During the night, the jailer took Paul and Silas to his house. Where were Paul and Silas the next day? What is the significance of this?

### **DAY 3: Thessalonica and Berea**

*Acts 17:1 When they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. <sup>2</sup> As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,*

*<sup>3</sup> explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he said.*

*<sup>4</sup> Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women.*

1. How long was Paul in Thessalonica?
2. Underline the words and phrases Paul used in sharing the gospel.
3. What were the results of his preaching? \_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 17:5 But the Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. <sup>6</sup> But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city officials, shouting: "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, <sup>7</sup> and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." <sup>8</sup> When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. <sup>9</sup> Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.*

4. Why do you think the "Jews were jealous"? (v. 5)

5. Were their threats factual? (vv. 6-7)

*Acts 17:10 As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. <sup>11</sup> Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. <sup>12</sup> Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.*

6. Once again, Paul is delivered from the possibility of death by a jealous mob.
7. How did the Bereans respond to the gospel message? Look for at least three items.
8. How do you respond when you hear a sermon at church? "Great eagerness?" "Examining the scriptures" on your own?

#### **DAY 4: Paul's sermon in Athens**

*Acts 17:16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.*

. What first bothered Paul when he arrived in Athens?

2. What was his approach to taking the gospel to Athens?

3. In Paul's sermon: (a) Underline what Paul says about God. (b) Circle words about Jesus:

*Acts 17:18 A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to dispute with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.*

*<sup>19</sup> Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" <sup>20</sup> You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we want to know what they mean." <sup>21</sup> (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)*

*<sup>22</sup> Paul... said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.*

*<sup>24</sup> "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.*

*<sup>26</sup> From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.*

*<sup>27</sup> God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' <sup>29</sup> "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone--an image made by man's design and skill.*

*<sup>30</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."*

4. There were three different responses. Underline each response:

*Acts 17:32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." <sup>33</sup> At that, Paul left the Council.*

*<sup>34</sup> A few men became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.*

5. What struck you most from Paul's sermon? Why?

## DAY 5: Corinth, Ephesus, and return home

1. The city of Corinth, in ancient Greece, was “the den of iniquity.”

*Acts 18:1 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup> There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, <sup>3</sup> and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. <sup>4</sup> Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.*

2. Who did Paul team up with? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What was his method of outreach? (v. 4)

*Acts 18:5 When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. <sup>6</sup> But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."*

4. With so much jealousy, hatred, venom, and plots to kill him, Paul saw that there was a group that was far more receptive to the gospel—the Gentiles.

*Acts 18:7 Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. <sup>8</sup> Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and **his entire household believed** in the Lord; and **many of the Corinthians** who heard him believed and were baptized.*

5. Paul’s decision to focus his message to the Gentiles began to pay immediate dividends!

*Acts 18:9 One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. <sup>10</sup> For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city." <sup>11</sup> So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.*

6. Through all the suffering Paul had endured, he had rested on the promises of God. But here, Jesus shows up in a vision. What affect would this have had on you?

7. What affect did this have on Paul?

*Acts 18:18 Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila.... <sup>19</sup> They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. <sup>20</sup> When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined.*

8. After a brief stay in Ephesus, Paul sails back for Antioch, finishing the second missionary journey. As you’ve studied the big pieces of his mission journey, what has stayed with you? What has struck you? How has God spoken to you?