

August 14, 2022
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey // Ep. 3: Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia
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Acts 16:6-10

Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 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.

The Journey Begins: Proverbs 16:9 "We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps." NLT

Sermon Focai:

1. Dealing with impulses.
2. Following God *Discerning his will

1. Dealing With Impulses

Acts. 15:36 Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing."

- **How do we deal with our impulses?** The nature of impulse: DREAMS-DESIRES-DESTINY-DUTY
 - **GREEK— Episkeptomai:** implies a call of duty. "We should be going back"

Much of God's direction in our lives involves responding to duty rather than hearing directly from God.

- **Side note:** Paul's second missionary journey did not accomplish what it set out to do, nor did it contain the originally proposed team.

Act 16:6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, **having been kept by the Holy Spirit** from preaching the word in the province of Asia.

- **GREEK—Kóluó:** To be forbidden, often through the counsel of others. (Matt 19:14, Mark 9:38)

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.**

- **GREEK—Eáō** – to *permit*, which implies *misgiving* that goes with the allowing – such as pointing to a lurking danger (see Ac 23:32)
 - This could have applied to a deep sense of foreboding, but also to physical hindrance and obstacles.

Act 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.

- Sometimes God does give definitive words, but this does not negate the faith component.

Practical Takeaways:

1. Nurture Spiritual Awareness
2. Foster Spiritual Agility: **Vs. 10** "We got ready at once"
3. Trust God's Sovereignty: **ROMANS 8:28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Questions for small groups:

1. How do you currently determine God's will for your life?
2. Sometimes God's will is just that we faithfully care for what we have been given, rather than receiving a direct revelation from God. Have you considered this? Explain.
3. Has God ever forbidden you from doing something? How did you determine that?
4. Spiritual awareness is key to following God. How do we develop that?
5. What does spiritual agility look like regarding following the promptings of God?

¹Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

²"Teacher," said John, "we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us."