

# Mission in Macedonia

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Acts 16

“Let us go again.” With those words the Apostle Paul and Silas set out on a second disciple-making journey. In Acts 16:11-12, they board a ship in Troas and eventually make their way to Phillipi after receiving the Macedonian call while in Troas (Acts 16:6-10).

The length of these journeys?

- Paul’s Conversion (AD 35)  
Acts 9
- Paul’s first visit to Jerusalem (Acts 9:26-29) AD 38
- Second visit to Jerusalem (Acts 11:27-30) AD 45
- First Journey (Acts 13:1-14:28) AD 46-48, about 1.5 years
- Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:1-35)
- **Second Journey (Acts 15:40-Acts 18:22) AD 49-52 about 2.5-3 years**
- Third Journey (Acts 18:23-21:24) AD 53-57 about three years.
- Arrest & Imprisonment in Caesarea (Acts 21:15-26:32) AD 57-59
- Voyage to Rome (Acts 27:1-28:31) AD 60-63.
- Release and further work (AD 63-67)
- Final Imprisonment and death (AD 67-68)



## I. Meeting by the Riverside (Acts 16:13-15)

- A. The Purpose of the Journey
  1. To strengthen the churches already established (**Acts 15:41**) (lead, feed, protect)
  2. To deliver the letters of doctrine from the Jerusalem council (**Acts 16:4**)
  3. To establish new churches (**Acts 16:6-10**)
- B. It was on the Sabbath day (**Acts 16.13**)
  1. The implication is there is no synagogue in Philippi.
  2. Traditionally, a group of 10 Jewish men needed to establish a dedicated synagogue.
  3. This explains why Paul and Silas encountered women on the riverside.

## II. The Power of the Gospel

- A. **The businesswoman (Lydia) (Acts 16:13-15) (She was likely Asian from Asia Minor)**
  1. She was wealthy and a business-minded merchant.
  2. She worshiped God, but her heart was closed (the Lord opened her closed heart).
    - a) **Acts 18:7**, the example of Titius Justus
    - b) **Luke 24:36-47**, esp. vss. **41, 44-45Luke 24:45**, *Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,*
    - c) **Psalm 119:18**, *Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.*
    - d) **1 John 5:20**, *And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.*
    - e) What does this ‘openness’ mean?
      - (1) To ‘open the mind’ and to ‘open the heart’ (idioms have a symbolic meaning vs. literal meaning. However, they do represent something literally happening)

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- (2) The Lord caused Lydia to be willing to learn and evaluate fairly
  3. She was obedient and generous (**Acts 16:15**)
- B. The demon-possessed slave girl (Acts 16:16-18) (She was likely Greek)**
1. She was possessed by a *python* spirit of divination & a fortune-teller for her owners (**16:16**)
  2. The demon spirit reacted to the presence of Paul, Silas, and Timothy (**Acts 16:17**)
    - a) Though true, the spirit's statement is making a mockery of Paul's effort (**Acts 16:18a**)
    - b) Paul becomes annoyed (vexed, irritated, disturbed, irked **4:2**) after many days.
    - c) Paul, demonstrating the spiritual authority of Christ, commands the spirit to leave. Resulting in Paul and Silas' imprisonment (**Acts 16:18b-24**).
      - (1) **1 Thessalonians 2:2**, *But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict.*
- C. The Philippian jailor (Acts 16:29-34) (He was likely a retired Roman soldier)**
1. The straightforward question (*What must I do to be saved?*) (**Acts 16:29-30**)
    - a) A person must reach the end of hope
    - b) A person must reach the end of deeds
    - c) A person must reach the end of reason (**Isaiah 1:18**, *"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."*)
  2. The straightforward requirement
    - a) *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ."* (**Acts 16:31-32**)
  3. The straightforward obedience (**Acts 16:33-34**)
  - 4.
- D. The different, unified by the Gospel.**
1. The three were different in national origin.
  2. The three were different socially (wealth, slave, soldier)
  3. The three had different needs
    - a) Lydia had an intellectual need (**Acts 16:14**)
    - b) The slave girl had a psychological need (enslaved to owners and to evil spirit).
    - c) The jailer had a moral need (*What must I do to be saved?*)

### **III. The Takeaways**

- A. Paul proclaimed the Gospel without discrimination (The wealthy, enslaved, immoral).
- B. Paul proclaimed God's providence regardless of condition
  1. Psalm 113 – The 'inclusio' of praise.
  2. Psalm 114 – the immovable move '*mountains skip like rams.*'
  3. Psalm 115 – Glory belongs not to us, but to the Lord. (Psalm 115:1)
  4. Psalm 116 – "I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice, and my pleas for mercy."
  5. Psalm 117- His love and faithfulness endure forever.
  6. Psalm 118 – His steadfast love endures forever.

### **IV. The Apologetic Departure (Acts 16:35-40)**