

## A Church is Born

Acts 16:1–2 (ESV)

### Timothy Joins Paul and Silas

**16** Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. <sup>2</sup> He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium.

How does a church grow? Discipleship (The process of leading to Christ, baptized and added, and to teach with the Word and in the way to live as a Christian)

Acts 16:5 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

From Galatia, Paul wanted to go east, but God had other ideas, so they looked westward, but God had other ideas! (Experiencing God/waiting to see what God is doing)

- Ministry is done through God's plans and ideas. (Something a lot of churches and Christians miss.)

#### 1. Following God's Plan

Acts 16:6–10 (ESV)

#### The Macedonian Call

<sup>6</sup> And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup> And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. <sup>8</sup> So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

A.) Notice- "immediately (What an incredible opportunity for Timothy)

B.) We also see **Silas**, and soon we will see **Luke** (So 4 men can accomplish much when following God's plan)

C.) From Troas, about 150 to 170 miles

2. **God adds to Churches as it pleases Him! (1 Cor. 12:18)** Earlier we saw that churches were strengthened and increased in numbers daily/ Now we see another one born!

Acts 16:11–15 (ESV)

#### The Conversion of Lydia

<sup>11</sup> So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. <sup>13</sup> And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. <sup>14</sup> One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a

worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

<sup>15</sup> And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

- A.) Philippi, a Roman colony, and one of the major cities in the area
- B.) Paul usually went to synagogue, but evidently there wasn’t one here, Women gathered to pray at a place near a river.
- C.) Lydia, businessperson, cloth with purple (popular at the time)
- D.) She worshipped, but she was not saved! (God opened her heart to the truth) Paul didn’t preach at her, he conversed with her.
- E.) She **believed, and boldly identified in baptism**. (Then she had the messengers to bring the message to the home, and her household followed.) A church is born!

Romans 10:9-17

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for “Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.”

### 3. **God builds in ways beyond our way of thinking!** –

Acts 16:16–22 (ESV)

#### **Paul and Silas in Prison**

<sup>16</sup> As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” <sup>18</sup> And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

<sup>19</sup> But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. <sup>20</sup> And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, “These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. <sup>21</sup> They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice.” <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods.

- A.) Paul was annoyed. Why? (He did not want someone that was not authentic proclaiming an authentic message!
- B.) She was, in fact possessed, and being used for fortune telling business. (Dionne Warwick and Shirley McClane type! 😊)
- C.) The owners had them arrested, interfering with business (Stripped, beaten, put in stocks)

Acts 16:25–34 (ESV)

### **The Philippian Jailer Converted**

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, <sup>26</sup> and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup> And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. <sup>34</sup> Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

- A.) So, Paul and Silas were not deterred. (They sang praises and shared their faith with everyone there.)
- B.) God was working. (Earthquake)
- C.) Jailer was going to kill himself, but Paul had kept everyone in and cried out to the jailer that they were all still there!

Wiersbe- "It was the jailer that was imprisoned, not Paul". (Made free)

- D.) He was baptized and shared with his family too. (**When we become a Christian, it is something that we want for everyone.**)

#### Conclusion

- Roman citizens were not supposed to be treated this way without a trial. (Paul demanded their proper release due to this, and the officials, out of fear released them)
- This was important for the testimony to this new area in Europe, and the new converts.
- New converts and a new church were born.
- This has so much to do with us here today. (It started with 4 willing men, the gospel message, and a church that gave birth to churches was instituted,
- All by the moving of God and people who were willing to wait on God and obey God.
- What is getting ready to happen for us here today, maybe it starts with salvation.