

## **WHEN OUR REALITY DOESN'T MEASURE UP TO OUR EXPECTATIONS**

**Acts 16:11-18:22**

### **TESTIMONY TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH 13-28**

As a result of the confirmation of God's plan to accept Gentiles into the new people of God, when the church was spread throughout the world by the persecution, they preached the gospel everywhere.

### **FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY 13-14**

The gospel spread to nearby islands and Turkey (Asia Minor).

Establishes pattern of rejection by the Jews and acceptance by Gentiles.

### **COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM 15:1-35**

Although the issue of salvation for the Gentiles was settled by Peter's vision, and his encounter with Cornelius, their Jewish background continues to raise problems.

The salvation of Gentiles provokes debate about how we can be saved.

The Jerusalem council is convened to resolve this issue (15:1-35)

The council determines:

Salvation comes through faith in Christ alone, for them AND for us!

They should not be restricted in a way that God Himself has not required (15:13-19).

They do ask the Gentiles not to conduct themselves in a way that would be offensive to Jews (15:20-21).

The people are grateful for the answer.

The work continues to grow.

## **SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY 15:36-18:22**

Paul and Barnabas decide to revisit the churches on 2<sup>nd</sup> journey

### **PREPARATION FOR THE JOURNEY 15:36-41**

Dispute over John Mark multiplies their ministry in 2 new teams.

### **SELECTION OF TIMOTHY 16:1-5**

His godly family background and his personal testimony recommend him to Paul as a companion in ministry.

Paul recognizes the importance of circumcision so that Timothy won't become an obstacle to their Jewish audience.

### **ADVANCE INTO MACEDONIA 16:6-11**

After prayerful consideration of what the Lord wants to do, Paul receives a vision of a man from Macedonia asking for help.

God moves them another step away from Israel.

This move changes the religious environment.

Fewer Jews are present in the cities.

A more direct confrontation with paganism is necessary.

Persecution continues but is multiplied because it now comes from *both* Jewish and pagan sources. It doesn't work out the way they expected. Were they wrong to go there?

“If God is in this, why are we suffering?

Have you ever had occasion to ask that question?

### **MESSAGE PROCLAIMED AT PHILIPPI 16:12-40**

When Paul begins to minister in Philippi (16:12-40), there is no synagogue. [Not 10 Jewish men!]

He finds a women's prayer meeting and goes there.

#### **Acceptance by Lydia 16:12-15**

Lydia, a Jewish business woman and faithful worshipper of God, heard Paul's message and trusted Christ (16:12-15).

What would you expect as a response?

Her response demonstrates appropriate response for Jewish people around the world, who are seeking to follow God (John 6:45; 7:17).

#### **Deliverance of possessed girl 16:16-18**

When they free a girl from a demon (16:16-18), her owners complain because of their business loss and have Paul arrested (16:19-24).

**Complaint of her owners 16:19-21** Pagan  
opposition: “These are Jews!”

#### **Arrest of Paul and Silas 16:22-24**

Logical question: “If God is in this why aren’t we more successful?” “Why are we suffering?”

### **Conversion of the jailer 16:25-34**

God demonstrates that the prison has no power over His servants; they stay in jail to tell the jailer about Jesus. 25-29

Amazed by what he sees and hears, the man and his family trust Christ. 30-34

They are baptized immediately—that same night.

Message is true for his family also!

Notice the repetition of the references to his family in fulfillment of the promise of 16:31.

### **Release of Paul 16:35-40**

To demonstrate the injustice of accusations and persecution, Luke tells how rulers try to release Paul (16:35-40). 35-36

They want to send him away quietly.

Paul insists they come and escort them out since they had no right to arrest a Roman citizen without a formal charge. 37

In fear, they lead him out, demonstrating his innocence. 38

### **Message proclaimed at Thessalonica 17:1-9**

Paul went on to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue, to preach concerning Jesus (17:1-9).

Message in the synagogue 17:1-4

How do “God’s people” react to his message?

**Persecution 17:5-9**

Some of the Jews and many Gentiles receive his message.

The rest of the Jews are jealous and start a riot against Paul.

They make an ungodly alliance. 5

**Message proclaimed at Berea 17:10-15**

Paul moves on to Berea (17:10-15).

**Response 17:10-12****Persecution 17:13-15**

At Berea the Jews want to hear and many believe.

When the Jews from Thessalonica hear that Paul is there, they go to stir up the crowds against him.

Another unholy alliance!

**Message proclaimed at Athens 17:16-34**

In pagan cultural center, Paul is safe from the opposition of the Jews but faces a different kind of resistance

**Encounter with philosophers 17:16-21**

He encounters the pagan philosophers of the day.

**Message 17:22-31**

They listen attentively as he talks about another new religious idea (17:22-31).

Change in message to address pagan audience.

Paul preaches the message of the one true God.  
He is not an idol; He is a Person.

They accept this radical idea!  
He overlooks man's foolishness and invites man  
to repent and to turn to Him.  
If they do not repent and turn to God they will  
be judged by the One God raised from the  
dead.

Response **17:32-34**

The resurrection is the hard part for the Greeks  
to accept  
Some make fun of the idea.  
Others are willing to hear more later.  
Only a few of these intellectual philosophers believe.

**Message proclaimed at Corinth 18:1-17**

Next Paul goes to Corinth where he stays for a  
year and a half.

His support **18:1-3**

He meets and joins Aquila and Priscilla in tent  
making to earn money (18:1-3).

His message **18:4-5**

He preaches in the synagogue on the Sabbath.

Rejection by the Jews **18:6**

When the Jews in Corinth reject the message,  
Paul turns to the Gentiles with the message of  
salvation (18:6).

Faith of a remnant **18:7-8**

His ministry is received by a handful of Jews and many Gentile citizens of Corinth.

God's protection **18:9-11**

God promises Paul that in spite of intense opposition, He will protect him.

The promise is confirmed when the Jews seek to take legal action against Paul.

His persecution **18:12-17**

The governor refuses to participate in their religious feuds.

He stays firm, even when they beat a synagogue ruler in front of him.

**Return to Antioch 18:18-22**

From Corinth Paul returns to Antioch.

Thus the stormy second missionary journey concludes.

The persecution begun against Paul on this visit continues to afflict the churches he founded in these cities.

***Significance of 2<sup>nd</sup> journey for development of the church?***

***Main lessons for us today?***