



Unexpected Surprises as We Walk with God

By Johnny Caruso on March 5, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Acts 16

Paul and Silas decide to visit the church Paul and Barnabas visited on their first missionary trip. Along the way they visit Derbe and Lystra and pick up a young disciple named Timothy. Paul always went "to the Jew first," which meant preaching first in the local synagogues. Timothy was half-Jewish. Paul knew if Timothy were not circumcised it would create additional, unnecessary difficulties for him as he preached in the synagogues; so Paul circumcised Timothy (Acts 16:1-5).

After several other stops they came to Troas. Acts 16:10 says "we sought to go into Macedonia." The "we" indicates that Dr. Luke, the author of Acts, joined the party at that point.

Philippi was the next major city they visited. Apparently, there was no synagogue there, which means that there were fewer than ten Jewish men in the city. So they went outside the city walls. There Paul preached to the women that had gathered to pray, and one woman named Lydia accepted Christ and had them stay in her home.

Paul cast a demon out of a slave girl who was a fortune teller and Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into jail. During the night, Paul and Silas started a hymn sing and God caused an earthquake. When the jailer realized what had happened, he supposed the prisoners had escaped, which meant death for him. However, when the jailer saw the prisoners were still there, he fell on his knees and asked, "What must I do to be saved?" He and his household believed and were baptized.

This is a great example of being ready to share your faith in everyday situations. Paul and the crew used the circumstances God put them in to share their faith. We need to take advantage of the places we go and the people we see. 1 Peter 3:15 says, "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."

PRAYER: Lord, thank You! You have Your hand on our lives, directing us to places and people that need your mercy and grace. Lord, I pray that we would be obedient in sharing the hope

we have in You.

Have an awesome weekend at church!

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

MONDAY'S READING: Galatians 1

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