

## EPISODE 4: September 27/28 The Witness in Greece I: Macedonia and Philippi Acts 15:36–16:40

## I. THE RE-LAUNCH

- a. The Disagreement in Antioch (15:35–41): Paul and Barnabas have a sharp disagreement.
  - i. The reason for this disagreement (15:35–38): Should John Mark accompany the team during the second missionary journey?
    - 1. Barnabas says yes (15:35–37).
    - 2. Paul says no (15:38).
  - ii. The results of this argument (15:39–41).
    - 1. Barnabas and John Mark set sail for Cyprus (15:39).
    - 2. Paul and Silas leave for Asia Minor (15:40–41).

## II. SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

- a. The Circumcision at Lystra (16:1–5).
  - i. Paul circumcises Timothy, who now joins the team (16:3b).
  - ii. Paul does this so as not to offend the Jews. Timothy's mother is Jewish, but his father is a Gentile (16:1–3a).
  - iii. The team preaches the gospel in surrounding areas with much success (16:4–5).
- b. The Call at **Troas** (16:6–10)—The Man of Macedonia
  - i. The Spirit tells Paul not to go north or south (16:6–8).
  - ii. The Spirit tells Paul to go west (16:9–10): Paul has a vision of a man from Macedonia pleading with him to come and help the Macedonians.

- c. **Philippi**: The Conversions at Philippi (16:11–34): The gospel team wins two key people to Jesus and frees one person from a demon.
  - i. Lydia: A businesswoman (16:11–15).
    - 1. (16:11–13): It occurs at a prayer meeting beside a river.
    - 2. She is a merchant of expensive purple cloth (16:14).
    - 3. Lydia is baptized as a testimony of her newfound faith (16:15).
  - ii. A Slave Girl (16:16–21).
    - 1. Demonic Possession and Exploitation (16:16–17).
      - a. The demon enables the girl to tell fortunes, earning much money for the girl's masters (16:16).
      - b. The demon pretends to agree with the message preached by Paul (16:17).
    - 2. *Deliverance* (16:18–23).
      - a. The girl is set free (16:18). Paul commands the demon to leave her.
      - b. The apostles are set upon (16:19–23). Paul and Silas are arrested, beaten, and imprisoned.
  - iii. A Prison Guard-- *The Philippian Jailer* (16:24–34).
    - 1. The Philippian Jailer is ordered to secure the two prisoners or (most likely) forfeit his life (16:24).
    - 2. The Worship and Earthquake (16:25–26).
      - a. He hears Paul and Silas praising God (16:25).
      - b. God sends an earthquake that frees all the inmates (16:26).
    - 3. Literal and Spiritual Salvation (16:27–31).
      - a. Believing the prisoners have escaped, he prepares to kill himself (16:27).
      - b. Being assured by Paul that no one has left the prison, he asks how to be saved! (16:28–31).
      - c. Responding to Paul's answer, the jailer and his family are saved and baptized (16:32–33).
    - 4. With great joy the new convert washes the wounds of the disciples and feeds them (16:34).
- d. Postlude (16:35–40)
  - i. The Authorities' Fear (16:35–39): Upon learning that the men they have beaten and imprisoned are Roman citizens, the city officials apologize to Paul and Silas and beg them to leave the city.
  - ii. The Apostles' Freedom (16:40) Paul and Silas return to the home of Lydia to meet with other believers before leaving town.