

Acts 15:36-16:15: On Second Mission.

I. (36-41) Paul and Barnabas Disagree and Separate.

Paul suggests that he and Barnabas return to all the cities where they planted churches in the first missionary trip, probably five years later.

John Mark had previously deserted them under unstated circumstances in **Acts 13:13**. This probably made Paul unwilling to trust him on future endeavors. So, Paul (accompanied by Silas) and Barnabas (accompanied by Mark) split, each going out to different fields of ministry.

The disagreement and separation (which was resolved later) worked for good in that there were two mission teams.

II. (1-15) Closed and Open Doors.

i. (1-5) Timothy.

Young Timothy is grafted in Acts; Paul's courage and wisdom in the face of these obstacles during his first missionary journey must've been of great impact Timothy, who joins them on Kingdom duty. Timothy would later on become a pastor in Ephesus to who Paul wrote two letters, 1 & 2 Timothy.

ii. (6-10) God redirects Paul to Macedonia.

Paul seeks to go next to the immediate west to Asia, was forbidden by the Holy Spirit to go there, tries to go north to Bithynia but was also forbidden and redirected to Troas, where he had a vision invitation to the region of Macedonia, further west across the Aegean Sea, into Eastern Europe, Greece. Luke, a medical doctor and historian who records and authors Acts joins Paul, Silas and Timothy.

John 16:13 - *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*

Psalms 48:14 - *For this is God, our God forever and ever; He will be our guide, even to death.*

Psalms 32:8 - *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.*

Psalms 31:3 - *For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name's sake, lead me and guide me.*

1 Samuel 15:22 - *So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.*

Isaiah 1:19 - *If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land.*

*Instant obedience is the only kind of obedience there is; delayed obedience is disobedience. Whoever strives to withdraw from obedience, withdraws from Grace.
Thomas a Kempis.*

Humor: There was a man, who had worked all his life, had saved all of his money, And was a real miser when it came to his money. Just before he died, he said to his wife... 'When I die, I want you to take all my money and put it in the casket with me. I want to take my money to the afterlife with me.' And so he got his wife to promise him, with all of her heart, that when he died, she would put all of the money into the casket with him.

The man died and was buried. When her friend asked her whether or not she had put all the money in her dead husband's coffin, the loyal wife replied, 'Listen, I'm a Christian; I cannot go back on my word. I promised him that I was going to put that money into the coffin with him.' 'I got it all together, put it into my account, and wrote him a cheque...If he can cash it, then he can spend it.'

The Holy Spirit often guides by closing some doors and opening others.

iii. (11-15) Lydia.

The fact that the Jews had no synagogue in Philippi and met by the river means that there were not many Jewish men there.

Just like Lydia, there is someone whose heart God is opening to receive salvation and new life; God wants to remove that hard heart in exchange for a tender one.