

Acts 15-17 Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey

As we journey through the Mediterranean world with the Apostle Paul on his 2nd Missionary Journey, we will consider 5 distinct episodes which help us glimpse a Spirit-directed life and a Spirit-filled church!

15: 1-21 THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL

Q: What was the issue?

Q: What problem did the Judaizers have with the Gentile converts?

> How can we have the same spirit as the Judaizers?

Q: How was the issue resolved? (What 4 conditions were placed on the Gentile believers?)

> They were to abstain from:

1- Food DEDICATED TO IDOLS (“used meat”) – meat that had been used as a sacrifice to pagan idols

2- Eating animals that were STRANGLED

3- Eating BLOOD

4- FORNICATION

> 1 Cor. 8: 4-13

> In light of Paul's attitude, how would you explain his actions in Acts 16: 1-3?

15: 36-41 DRAMA ON THE MISSION TEAM

Q: What was the point of contention between Paul and Barnabus?

> see Acts 13:13

Q: Was this rift ever resolved? (Col. 4:10)

Q: What does this episode tell us about the Apostles? (see Acts 14:15)

Q: Did any good come from this division? Are all divisions bad?

16: 6-10 THE MACEDONIAN CALL

* Notice the 2-fold work of the Holy Spirit in guiding Paul, Silas & Timothy:

1- CLOSING A DOOR that was planned

2- OPENING A NEW DOOR for ministry

Q: What possible ways did the HS “close the door?”

a. INNER PROMPTING

b. PROPHETIC UTTERANCE

c. EXTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCE

> Can you think of a time when the HS used an external circumstance to guide or help you?

Q: How did the HS “open the door” for the team's work in Greece? A DREAM

Q: How would you summarize the lessons learned from this series of events?

16: 16-34 THOSE JAILBIRDS CAN SING

Q: What was the reason that Paul and Silas were imprisoned?

- > What was wrong with what the girl said? It was TRUE, but MOCKING
- > How did it hinder the team? Paul was ANNOYED (NKJV)
 - The enemy's attacks are often in the form of DISTRACTIONS
(ill: Music Ministry)

Q: How did the girl's masters respond to Paul's exorcism? Why? They lost PROFIT!

Q: What was God's purpose in sending the earthquake? To free His apostles?

- > The apostles did not ESCAPE! What happened as a result of this refusal to flee?

Q: Considering the fact that the HS didn't always rescue Paul when he was imprisoned, what does this story teach us about praise and worship?

- > The power of praise is amazing! It can break PHYSICAL chains (what are some examples?)
AND it can break SPIRITUAL chains! (The jailer's household was converted!)

Q: V.31 suggests that God works in FAMILY UNITS!

- > ex: Amber Shirley
- > minister to Lynn Norman – re: Matt

17: 16-34 VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

Q: What about Paul was exciting to these Athenians? (vv. 19-21)

Q: How did Paul seize an opportunity with the Athenians?

Q: What do you think – was Paul successful?

- Some were CONVERTED
- Some were CURIOUS
- Some MOCKED
- No CHURCH WAS PLANTED
- There is no BOOK OF ATHENIANS!

- > *Why might the Athens ministry have been less successful than some of the other missions?*
* *Mental approach (head knowledge) vs*