

MOBILISING KINGDOM LIVING

FAITH & RISK • PERSEVERANCE • DAILY



“Paul in Philippi”

A fresh look at the Holy Spirit’s work



Acts 16:6-15

⁶ Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. ⁷ After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. ⁸ So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.....

Acts 16:6-15

.....11 Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day came to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days. 13 And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. 14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

Map of Paul's Second Missionary Journey





UKRAINE

MOLDOVA

ROMANIA

RUSSIA

BULGARIA

GEORGIA

MACEDONIA

ARMENIA

AZERBAIJAN

GREECE

TURKEY

IRAN

Holy Spirit guides them

- vs 6 'forbidden by the Holy Spirit'
- vs 7 'The Spirit did not permit them'
- vs 9 'a vision in the night'
- He forbids and confirms, denies and permits, both No and Yes.
- Discern good from best not just good from evil.
- Paul was receptive and obedient

He leads them to an unfamiliar place

- Vs 12 they didn't find a synagogue after some days in the city
- Jewish law – 10 men residing in the city can form a synagogue
- Greek 'proseuche' = place of prayer
- No Synagogue, no men, but women beside a river
- His method and model was irrelevant

Holy spirit reveals jesus

- Lydia a businesswoman from Thyatira in province of Lydia.
- Seller of purple – ink / stain from madder plant not shellfish
- Person of Peace (Luke 9&10, Matt 10 and Mark 6)
- vs 14 'The Lord opens her heart'
- vs 13 'we sat down and spoke to the women'

For Thought

What are the ways in which the Holy Spirit has been leading you recently:

- directing and confirming (perhaps a vision?)
- hindering, warning and stopping
- to unfamiliar spaces and places
- to sit down and speak with someone you don't know