

Acts 16:6-40 - Part 3

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6-14-17

Context

IV. The Apostle to the Gentiles (12:25-21:17)

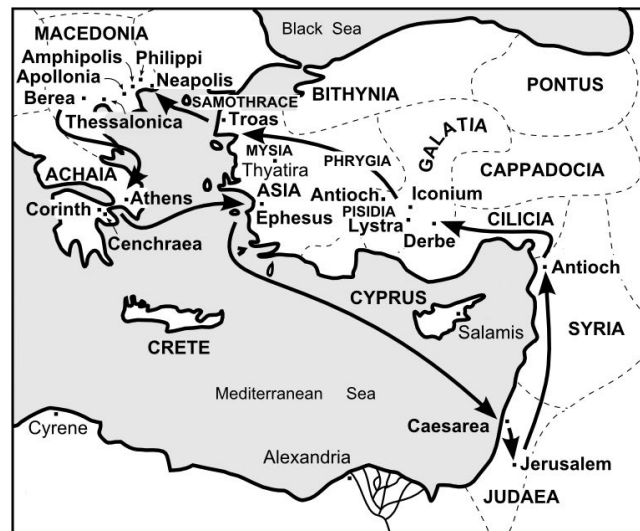
- A. The first missionary journey (12:25-14:28)
- B. The Council of Jerusalem (15:1-16:5)
- C. Mission in Macedonia (16:6-17:15)**
- D. Paul in Athens (17:16-34)
- E. Corinth and Ephesus (18:1-19:41)
- F. More about Ephesus (20:1-21:17)

The Roman Jailer (vv. 25-30)

- V. 25 - "praying and singing hymns of praise to God"
 - No small wonder
 - "the prisoners were listening to them"
- V. 26 - the earthquake that opened all the doors and unfastened all the chains
- V. 27 - the jailer - would have been held

○ Contrast to the Kingdom of God, which is not run by _____, but by _____

○ Cf. Matthew 20:25-28
- V. 28 - Paul spares him of this fate
 - Cf. Peter in Acts 12?
 - We can trust in the _____ of God
- Vv. 29-30 - Jailer's question
 - Wesley: "From the guilt I feel and the vengeance I fear? Undoubtedly God then set his sins in array before him, and convinced him in the clearest and strongest manner that the wrath of God abode upon him."



Vv. 31-40

- V. 31 - The missionaries' answer
- V. 32 - opening the door to salvation for them even more.
- Vv. 33-34 - not only believed, but repented. Evidence?
 - He was _____ along with his household
 - Signs of _____
 - John Chrysostom: The washing was reciprocal. He washed them and was washed. He washed them of their stripes, and he himself was washed from his sins.
 - Rejoiced greatly - sign of genuine _____ of God
 - Outward expressions of inward realities

- Vv. 35-36 - the next move of the leaders
- Roman law - *Lex Julia* - the Roman citizen might not be beaten or bound by a magistrate *adversus provocationem* (without the right to _____) or by any other person in any circumstance.
 - Rule of law to protect the citizens from abuse of power
 - “*Civis Romanus sum*” - I am a Roman citizen = protection
 - V. 37 - Paul = Rosa Parks. Motives:
 - For _____ - Refused to move until some semblance of _____ was restored.
 - For the _____ - Opportunity to fulfill their God-given _____
 - For the _____ - Setting a _____
- Vv. 38-40 - Magistrates fear, came, released, and pleaded

The Unifying Power of the Gospel

- A disparate group in Philippi: business woman, slave girl, Roman jailer - world apart, yet radically changed by the same Gospel message
 - _____
 - Lydia = _____ (from Asia Minor). An immigrant.
 - Slave girl = presumably a native _____
 - Jailer = a retired _____ soldier
 - While in some sense united by the Roman Empire, they were now united in _____ in a deeper and fuller way
 - _____
 - Lydia = a wealthy business woman.
 - Lucrative business, large house
 - Slave girl = the other end of the social spectrum - nothing lower than a female slave!
 - Jailer = the respectable _____
 - All three entered the church on the same terms with no distinction.
 - A good Jew's prayer: “Thank you that I am not a Gentile, a woman, or a slave.” Cf. Gal. 3:28
 - _____
 - Lydia = _____ need. She “kept listening” (v. 14) until the Holy Spirit opened the eyes of her heart (mind).
 - Slave girl = _____ need.
 - No personal identity or individuality as a human being
 - Double deliverance/healing.
 - Jailer = _____ need.
 - Needs differ, but Jesus Christ is the solution to them all!
- In Philippi: universal _____ and the unifying _____ of the gospel.
 - V. 40 - Luke ends the narrative with brotherly love
 - These disparate people were brought into the loving, unifying community of the church
 - Cf. letter to Philippians urging to “stand firm in one spirit” and to be “like-minded”