

PART 20: JESUS' POWER DISPLAYED IN PHILIPPI

ACTS 15:36—16:40

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MAIN IDEA

In the first part of Paul's 2nd missionary journey, the gospel advances to Philippi and a new church is established as Jesus' power is displayed in various ways.

I. THE JOURNEY TO PHILIPPI (15:36—16:10)

A. Paul's missionary companions (15:36--16:5)

- (15:36) Paul suggests that he and Barnabas return to all the cities where they planted churches in the first missionary trip.
- (15:37-41) Paul and Barnabas divide over the issue of taking John Mark with them.
- (16:1-2) Paul meets Timothy in Lystra.
- (16:3-5) Timothy joins Paul and Silas, and their work continues.

B. Paul's Macedonian calling (16:6-10)

- (16:6-8) The Holy Spirit forbids Paul to go towards the province of Asia Minor.

- (16:9-10) God directs Paul to the region of Macedonia.

II. NEW CONVERTS IN PHILIPPI (16:11-34)

A. Jesus transforms a wealthy woman (16:11-15)

- (16:11-12) Arrival in Philippi.
- (16:13-15) The conversion of Lydia.

B. Jesus transforms a slave girl (16:16-18)

- (16:16-17) A demon-possessed slave girl follows Paul.
- (16:18) Paul casts the demon out of the slave girl.

C. Jesus transforms a jailer (16:19-34)

- (16:19-24) Paul and Silas are arrested, beaten, and imprisoned for delivering the slave-girl from her demonic possession.
- (16:25) Paul and Silas sing in prison.
- (16:26-29) The great earthquake and its result.
- (16:30-32) The conversion of the Philippian jailer.
- (16:33-34) The Philippian jailer serves Paul and Silas.

III. A NEW CONGREGATION IN PHILIPPI (16:35-40)

- (16:35-36) Paul and Silas return to the prison, and are set free by the magistrates the next day.
- (16:37-39) Paul and Silas reveal their Roman citizenship.
- (16:40) Paul and Silas leave Philippi on their own terms.

IV. APPLICATION

- Believers can learn a few things from Paul's second missionary journey. We see that God can bring good results even out of a "sharp disagreement" (Acts 15:39);
- Paul chose to have Timothy circumcised in Lystra even though circumcision is not a requirement for salvation. Through that act, Paul exemplifies the importance of showing deference to the community with whom we are trying to share the gospel.
- Paul, Silas, and Timothy listened to the Holy Spirit and only went where He allowed, setting an example for us to be so dependent on God's direction in our lives.