

## ASSIGNMENT FOR CLASS #10: PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY TO ASIA MINOR, EPHESUS, GREECE (15:36-18:22)

### Session #1: Paul & Barnabas Separate (Acts 15:36-41)

- Please read Acts 13:13. Barnabas went to join his cousin Mark in Cyprus (Col 4:10). Have you ever had an argument with someone whom you knew to be good and even holy? Does this passage bring up any feelings or resentments that you need to reconcile with the Lord?

### Session #2: Timothy's Association & Paul's Vision (Acts 16:1-10)

- Notice that they bring to the people the decisions of the Council of Jerusalem! (Acts 16:4). Does this look familiar? This brings up the whole conflict about the *obedience of faith*, which in the *Acts of the Apostles* means obedience to the decisions of the Apostolic Church. How does this conflict with the modern notion that we can decide for ourselves what is "spiritual" or "holy"? The word used for the "decisions" that are delivered is *dogma*. Have you ever heard that word? Does that word have good connotations or bad ones for you?
- Scripture says the Holy Spirit actually *prevented* Paul from preaching in both Asia and Bithynia. I wonder what that was like? Do you have any thoughts about this? Have you ever felt prevented by God to do something you thought was good and holy? They end up in Macedonia because of a vision. How do you feel about being led by the Spirit rather than what "makes sense" or what is "most logical"?

### Session #3: The Conversion of Lydia (Acts 16:11-15)

- Notice that Lydia's *whole household* (including infants and servants) was baptized. This was often done by the apostles (See Acts 16:33; 1 Cor 1:16). Conversion is not just brought about heart by heart, but house by house. How could we facilitate an evangelization that might look more like this?

### Session #4: Paul & Silas, the Possessed Girl, & their Imprisonment (Acts 16:11-40)

- This is the third time that we have seen direct contact with "new age" spirits. Really, my friends, what do we think about the power of these new age spirits and the demonic?
- Why do you really think that Paul and Silas were beaten and imprisoned? What did they *do*? Why does Paul demand that the magistrates come and personally apologize?
- Note the personal and communal touch of 16:40.

### Session #5: Preaching in Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9)

- What is the primary element of the faith that Paul preached? (Acts 17:3)
- Yet again, we see people get angry with Paul because of jealousy (*zelus*). How often has this vice gotten both the church and ourselves in trouble? How honest is their charge against Paul and Silas?

### Session #6: Paul & Silas in Beroea (Acts 17:10-15)

### Session #7: Paul in Athens (Acts 17:16-34)

- Athens was the very centre of philosophical debate in its time, and listening to sermons and lectures was a primary form of both entertainment and education. Two of these groups were Epicureans and Stoics, whom Paul disputes. Epicureans believed that life was about seeking pain and avoiding pleasure, and if "gods" exist then they do not care about human life. Stoics lived a strict moral life in accordance with nature and rationality, and tried not to ever be led astray by emotions.
- What is the purpose of Paul's opening statement in 17:22-23? What can it teach us about how to preach the gospel?
- What was their reaction to hearing about the Resurrection? Why do you think they acted that way?