

Acts: Macedonia

*Aug 16*

**INTRODUCTION:**  With the Jerusalem Council behind them, and the letter having caused encouragement into the Galatian churches, Paul’s team now strikes out into new territory.

**KEY POINT:** mission, direction, discernment, providence

**A.M. SERMON RECAP** (George Bell)

* What was the sermon about?
* What were the key points?
* Key takeaways…? Questions to keep considering?

**P.M. SERMON RECAP** (Acts 16: 1–5, Timothy)

* Who was Timothy? What encouragement is his life?
* For missional reasons, what did Timothy do?
* Was this a contradiction of the Jerusalem Council?

**READ:** Acts 16:6–10

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Acquaint yourself with the basic geography (Roman provinces). *Phrygia and Mysia were both areas of Asia. Troas was the main harbour of Asia facing Macedonia:*



1. *V. 6- Having been in Derbe and Lystra (v. 1), the team continued east through “the cities” (v. 4). Having completed their initial plan (15:36) they now cast their missionary eyes further afield.*
2. *Vv. 6–7-“The Holy Spirit” and “Spirit of Jesus” are synonymously used for Jesus sent His Spirit at Pentecost.*
3. *Despite heading east the Spirit (God) twice prevented them from [temporarily] fulfilling His general will (Acts 1:8) which may have taken them west or north.*
4. **Did God not want them to hear the Gospel (“pass by”) or does it show God has a specific plans for us in the midst of His wider mission? (i.e. who went to Bythinia, 1 Pet 1:1?). Can we minister to everyone or must we consign ourselves to minister to some?**
5. **If we are open and active to do God’s will how can we trust that He will direct us to His specific will?**
6. *Luke doesn’t tell us how they were prevented (i.e. inward impression, outward illness, opposition, prophecy).* **Has God ever negatively guided you away from something in life/mission, even when it was good?**
7. *They were negatively led to Troas. Next they were positively led to Macedonia. This may be where we get “when God closes a door He opens a window,” though this can be abused (it isn’t an absolute). Often there is such a thing as double guidance: prohibition and opportunity.* **Have you ever experienced this?**
8. *V.10- “concluding”: a bringing together of the data to make a conclusion.* **How did God use double guidance, time, circumstances, personal revelation (vision), reason and corporate discussion to direct the team? What should we rely on in life/missional decisions?**
9. *V. 9b- HELP (a military distress call).* **Why did they need help? What help could Paul bring them?**
10. *V. 10- “we”. Here Luke joined the team. (Possibly as a doctor but perhaps as a native of Macedonia). Like Timothy (16:3), he is another reminder of team ministry.*
11. *Though the team wouldn’t have made the geographical divide we do today (they were just crossing a well-travelled body of water to another Roman province, we know they crossed from Asia to Europe. If you are a European Christian this is the heritage that made salvation possible. Little did the team know the impact this would have re: Acts 1:8 for Europe became the first Christian continent and helped bring Christianity to the others?* **How might God use our mission?**

**NEXT:** Aug 23- Acts 16:11–16, The Conversion of Lydia