

# Week 26

## The Second Missionary Journey Continued

### **The Power of God Can't Be Imprisoned**

Acts 16:16-34 tells us the story of how Paul and Silas were imprisoned for casting out a spirit of divination from a slave girl. They were beaten and thrown into the inner prison, with their feet fastened in stocks. But instead of complaining or despairing, they prayed and sang hymns to God at midnight. And God heard their prayers and sent a great earthquake that shook the foundations of the prison and opened all the doors and loosed all the bonds. The jailer, who was about to kill himself, thinking that the prisoners had escaped, saw the miracle and asked Paul and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

This passage shows us the power of God to save sinners and to turn suffering into joy. Paul and Silas did not let their circumstances dictate their attitude or their worship. They trusted in God's sovereignty and goodness, even when they faced persecution and pain. They knew that God had a purpose for their suffering, and that He could use it for His glory and for the advancement of His gospel. And God did use it, not only to deliver them from prison, but also to bring salvation to the jailer and his family. The jailer, who was once an enemy of Christ and His servants, became a brother in Christ and a host to His messengers. He experienced the grace and love of God through the testimony and kindness of Paul and Silas. He rejoiced that he had believed in God, and that God had given him a new life.

We can learn from this example how to respond to suffering in our lives. We can choose to praise God instead of grumbling or giving up. We can pray for His will to be done instead of our own. We can share the gospel with those who need it instead of hiding it or being ashamed of it. We can show compassion and forgiveness to those who hurt us instead of seeking revenge or holding grudges. We can rejoice in our salvation instead of focusing on our troubles. We can trust that God is working all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). We can remember that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us (Romans 8:18). We can hope in the promise that one day God will wipe away every tear from our eyes, and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain (Revelation 21:4).

### **C. THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY (15:36-18:22)**

- 1 Paul and Barnabas Disagree on John Mark (15:36-40)**
- 2. Syria and Cilicia Revisited (15:41)**
- 3. Paul/Timothy to Galatia To Deliver Council's Decrees (16:1-5)**
- 4. From Galatia-Mysia- To Troas (16:6-10)**

- a. The Spirit prevents them and changes their agenda (16:6-7)
- b. God communicates through visions

5. The Work in Philippi (16:11-40)

- a. Lydia is converted (16:11-15)
- b. Paul and Silas are jailed unjustly (16:16-24)
- c. Paul and Silas are miraculously released (16:25-30)
- d. The Jailer is converted (16:30-34)

# Revive Us Again: How the Church Changed the World and Can Again

## Study Notes – Week 26

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