

Come to the Mission Field

Acts 16:6-15

A. Exciting Times for the Early Church

1. At Pentecost 3000 souls were saved. Believers & churches multiplied!
2. Paul changed from persecutor to preacher to missionary telling the good news.
3. The mission field is not just overseas — it starts right where we are.
4. Some invitations are direct from God, other times they come through man.

B. The Guidance of the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:6-8)

1. *“They were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.”*
2. Sometimes God closes doors to lead us to the right place.
3. Following the Holy Spirit requires sensitivity and obedience.
4. Are we open to God’s redirection in our personal mission field?
5. Paul had a vision at Troas *“Come over to Macedonia and help us.”*
6. He heard the urgency of the mission—people are waiting for the gospel!
7. Paul and his team acted without delay (verse 10).
8. God is still calling today—are we listening for His voice?
9. It’s hard to hear it when you’ve already decided what you want Him to say.
10. Paul arrives in Philippi, a Roman colony, and begins ministry.
11. Gospel work starts in small ways: They found a group of women praying.
12. Mission work begins with seeking people who are open to God.
13. Who around us is already seeking God?
14. We see the meeting with, & the conversion of Lydia.
15. *“The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message.”*
16. Lydia, a successful businesswoman, became the first European convert.
17. Her response: Baptism and hospitality—faith leads to action!
18. True conversion impacts not just the individual but the community.

C. Lessons from Paul's Macedonian Call

1. Lost souls call us to the mission field (v. 9)
2. These people are lost in sin and without hope (Eph. 2:12)
3. These people have never heard the gospel
 - a. They do not know that God loves them
 - b. They do not know that Christ died to save them
 - c. They do not know that He arose and offers them eternal life
4. How can they believe when they have not heard, without a preacher?
5. (Rom. 10:14)? *How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?*
6. Do you hear the calls of the lost?
7. Are you willing to tell them of Christ and His love?

D. Love for Souls Should Cause Us to Heed the Call (vv. 10-40)

1. Paul had a deep love for souls
 - a. Consider his love for lost Jews (Rom. 9:1-3)
 - b. Consider his love for lost Gentiles (missionary journeys)
2. See how quickly Paul and Silas responded to the call (immediately)
3. They went on to Philippi, the chief city of Macedonia
 - a. Paul preached at a prayer meeting by a river, and Lydia was converted
 - b. He delivered a demon-possessed fortune teller (vv. 16-18)
4. Because of this, Paul and Silas were thrown in prison.
 - a. Their praying and praising of God in the prison brought an earthquake
 - b. In prison, Paul and Silas reached the jailer for Christ (vv. 23-34)
 - c. The suicidal jailer became a believer
5. Great victories await us when we answer the call to reach the lost

E. Look Around! The Mission Field Surrounds Us

1. The mission field is the world outside.
2. (Matt. 13:38) *The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one,*
 - a. Your Macedonia begins at your door
 - b. We all meet lost people everywhere we go
3. Have you even noticed that they are there?
4. See how Paul and Silas seized every opportunity in Macedonia
 - a. How many opportunities have you seized today?
 - b. How many people have you told of Jesus and His love?

F. The Call

1. God is calling us to the mission field—will we answer the call?
2. Missions is not just for pastors and missionaries—it's for each one of us.
3. Missionaries are not just those who go overseas.
4. The prayer & financial supporters are as involved as much as those who go.
5. We must be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, & be obedient to God's call.
6. We can start small & be faithful in small beginnings.
7. Ask God how you can step into the mission field today—at home, or beyond.
8. Do you hear the cries of lost ones around you? Those who don't know Jesus?
9. They are crying out for your message of love & hope every day.
10. As you walk out the door today, understand, you are entering the Mission Field.
11. Do your work & harvest, but remember it's God who makes the grain grow!
12. He just needs you to plant the seed!