



I. The Division of Paul and Barnabas (15:36 - 41)

Verse 36

Some time later

Paul said to Barnabas,
 “Let us go back
 and visit the believers
 in all the towns
 where we preached
 the word of the Lord
 and see how they are doing.”

Paul expressed his desire to return and encourage the churches
 to remain faithful.

Verse 37

Barnabas wanted to take John,
 also called Mark,
 with them,

Even though John Mark had abandoned the work (Acts 13:13)
 previously, Barnabas had not given up on his cousin as a minister.

Verse 38

but

Paul did not think (axioo = keep on insisting)
 it wise to take him,
 because he had deserted them (aphistemi = one who
 continued to desert)
 in Pamphylia
 and had not continued
 with them in the work.

Paul did not trust John Mark and did not want to continue to
 work with him. This was not a casual argument – Paul strongly
 kept on insisting that John Mark would keep on deserting!

Verse 39

They had such a sharp disagreement (paroxysmos =
 irritation resulting in violent anger)
 that they parted company. (apocharizo = to tear apart)
 Barnabas took Mark
 and sailed for Cyprus,

This is now getting out of control.

The escalation of anger is not something that is healthy in
 Christian relationships. Someone was wrong! Maybe both!

The strong argument led to the “tearing apart” of the partnership
 between Paul and Barnabas.

Barnabas was John Mark’s cousin and Barnabas was called “The
 Encourager” – so it makes sense that he would be personally
 more understanding of John Mark.

Could this be residual hurt from the **Galatians 2** incident?

Verse 40

But

Paul chose Silas
 and left,
 commended by the believers
 to the grace of the Lord.

Paul and Barnabas split apart and form two teams.

Two things: 1) God can use this split for good by sending out two
 teams instead of one!, but 2) splitting because of angry disputes is
 NOT acceptable. We should resolve any hurt between us and
 others and then allow God to split our teams as HE sees fit in HIS
 time.

NOTE: Paul and John Mark did work together in the future.
 (Col. 4:10; Phile. 1:24; 2 Tim. 4:11)

Verse 41

He went through Syria and Cilicia,
strengthening (episterizo = render firm/confirm)
the churches.

We have to add this to our understanding of Paul's strategy for church planting – to follow-up and reconfirm their faith over time.

II. The Second Missionary Journey : Derby (16:1 - 5)

Verse 1

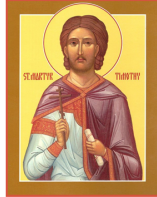
Paul came to Derbe
and then to Lystra,

On Paul's first missionary journey,
he was almost stoned to death
in Lystra (Acts 14:11-20)!

where a disciple named Timothy (name means "honoring
God") lived,

whose mother
was Jewish
and a believer
but whose father was a Greek.

It is likely, that Timothy is the fruit of Paul's first missionary journey five years earlier. We know that he was nurtured by his mother (Eunice) and his grandmother (Lois) – 2 Tim. 1:5



Verse 2

The believers at Lystra
and Iconium
spoke well of him. (martyreo = testimony/witness)

Verse 3

Paul wanted to take him along
on the journey, [Paul was impressed with Timothy]
so he circumcised him
because of the Jews
who lived in that area,
for they all knew
that his father was a Greek.

Note: Timothy would be legally considered a Jew because of his Jewish mother, but because he was uncircumcised he would be treated like an "apostate Jew".



Verse 4

[now]

As they traveled from town to town,
they delivered the decisions
reached by the apostles
and elders in Jerusalem
for the people to obey.

AS they travel, they bring the letter written by the Jerusalem Council to show Gentiles what it takes to be saved.

Verse 5

So the churches were strengthened
in the faith
and grew daily in numbers.

III. The Vision of Macedonia (16:6 - 10)

Verse 6

Paul and his companions
traveled throughout the region of Phrygia
and Galatia,
having been kept (kolyo = to forbid/hinder/deny)
by the Holy Spirit
from preaching (laleo = speak) the word
in the province of Asia. [Asia Minor = Turkey today]

Does the Holy Spirit say "no" sometimes?

Why would the Spirit NOT want them to preach the word in Asia?

Even good and right things must be done in the right time and
by the right person!

Do you allow the Holy Spirit to change your plans?



Verse 7

When they came to the border of Mysia,
they tried to enter Bithynia,
but
the Spirit of Jesus
would not allow (eao = give permission) them to.



Now wait a minute! This is a little crazy!

So the Holy Spirit did not want them to go North or West?

Verse 8

So they passed by Mysia
and went down to Troas.

God has a divine appointment!



Verse 9

During the night [probably means a dreaming]
Paul had a vision (horama = divinely granted)

- 1) of a man of Macedonia
- 2) standing
- 3) and begging him, (parakaleo = implore/intreat)
- 4) “Come over to Macedonia
- 5) and help us.” (boetheo = aid/come to our rescue!)

Paul’s vision was for a region – God’s vision was for a continent!
This will be the beginning of the missionary work in **Europe**!



Verse 10

After Paul had seen the vision,
we got ready at once
to leave for Macedonia,
concluding that God
had called us

to preach the gospel to them.

Did you notice the change in person of the language? From “they” to “we”! Apparently God not only added Timothy to the team but also Luke.

Luke was likely Paul’s personal doctor throughout the rest of his life.

Now we see why God had shut those other doors – if Paul had not encountered Luke, we may not be reading the Book of Acts today! God has a reason when he says “no” to our plans.

IV. The Conversion of Lydia (16:11 - 15)

Verse 11

From Troas
we put out to sea
and sailed straight
for Samothrace,
and the next day
we went on to Neapolis.



Verse 12

From there we traveled to Philippi,
a Roman colony
and the leading city
of that district of Macedonia.
And we stayed there several days.

Verse 13

On the Sabbath
we went outside the city gate
to the river,
where we expected to find
a place of prayer.
We sat down
and began to speak
to the women
who had gathered there.

Paul's pattern is interrupted in Philippi – there are no synagogues in the area – therefore we can conclude that there were not many Jews there.

NOTE: It only takes 10 Jewish men to establish a Synagogue!
If no synagogue – go talk to the strangers!

Verse 14

One of those listening
was a woman

- 1) from the city of Thyatira [city known for purple]
- 2) named Lydia, (names means “travail”)
- 3) a dealer in purple cloth.
- 4) She was a worshiper (sebo = adore/revere) of God.

The Lord opened (dianoigo = to cause to understand)
her heart
to respond (prosecho = to pay attention and to follow)
to Paul's message.

We are reminded that ONLY GOD can open the heart to “draw” someone to Christ (John 6:44) We preach, the Holy Spirit convicts, God opens the heart, Christ redeems!

Verse 15

When she
and the members of her household
were baptized,
she invited us to her home.

“If you consider me a believer
in the Lord,” she said,
“come and stay at my house.”

And she persuaded us.

She and her household were saved and baptized!
Her first act of “new creation” was to serve and show the love of Christ. Faith without works is dead!
Don't forget, Lydia is a GENTILE WOMAN – lots of barriers being crossed here today!