

Acts 16 Handout

v.1-5 - Paul and Silas, now teamed, begin what is known as Paul's second missionary journey. From Antioch to Derbe and Lystra, which both are Roman colonies. They meet Timothy, a young man who was already a disciple. He was known and respected by the brethren of Iconium and Lystra. His mother being a Jew but father being a Greek, Timothy was not circumcised. Paul took him and had him circumcised, not for salvation but to make him more easily received by the Jews as they traveled to various cities. They delivered letters from Jerusalem, as they had done in Antioch (chapter 15), and the churches were established in the faith and increased in number.

v.6-10- having gone through Phrygia and Galatia (Phrygia technically had been joined to the region of Galatia), the Holy Ghost forbade them to preach in Asia and later Bythynia, but in a vision, Paul saw of man of Macedonia begging him to come there and help them. And so they made their way there. We must always follow God's leading even if it is against what we think is a good thing.

v.11-15- They leave Troas (Troy) to Samothracia (and island) to Neapolis (a seaport) then to Philippi (chief city of Macedonia, named after Philip of Macedonia, the father of Alexander the Great). It was a Roman colony which means there were many Romans living there. There was no synagogue which means the Jewish population was small—Jewish law required that a synagogue be established when there were 10 men in the community. On the Sabbath they went out of city by the river and spoke to women assembled there. They met Lydia, seller of purple, from Thyatira (some distance) who believed the word, was baptized, had her whole household baptized, and invited them to her home.

v.16-24 - In Philippi they encounter a young woman possessed with a spirit of divination, making lots of money for her masters through this, who follows them around declaring these men are the servants of the most high God, which show us the way of salvation. This she did many days, and Paul vexed, cast out the spirit. Her masters were not happy and brought them into marketplace where they convinced magistrates to beat them and put them in prison. "These are Jews who teach things that are not our customs—we are Romans. They are beat with many stripes, put in a dungeon, and secured in stocks.

v.25-34 - And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. Then there was an earthquake that shook prison and opened all the doors, and loosed EVERY ONE'S BANDS. When jailer awoke and saw doors opened he would have killed himself (according to the Roman penalty) but Paul cries out do yourself no harm: FOR WE ARE ALL HERE. Jailer falls at their feet and asks what I must do to be saved. Jailer takes them into his house and ministers to them after having his whole household baptized.

v.35-40 - magistrates send word to let them go but Paul protests. They have illegally beaten us and imprisoned openly, but want to release us privately, in secret. Magistrates were afraid when they heard they were Roman citizens—it is forbidden to

whip a Roman citizen. They asked them to leave. They went into house of Lydia who comforted them then they departed.