

Guided (sometimes unexpectedly) by God

Acts 16:6-15

Whose voices give important guidance to us?

How do we know if we're hearing that guidance accurately?

How do we know God's voice? and if we're hearing him accurately?

The Books of Acts

Author: Luke

_____, historian, writer

Recipients & Purpose: Churches & the Church

Perhaps: _____ churches, mostly Gentiles plus Jews

In support of being _____ of the Gospel to the ends of the earth

Gospel for all people across all _____

Acts 16:6-15

6-8: Spirit of Jesus guides... _____ !!

Paul's strategic plans

_____ : influential cities, Jews then Gentiles

Previously _____ - Acts 13:48-49; 14:1; 16:5

Current plans: _____ in Asia? ...Bithynia? ...Troas?

God's unexpected timing & priorities

Spirit _____ 'preaching the word' - not once, but twice!

'Spirit of _____' = exalted Jesus continued to direct gospel progress

Years later: Paul's fruitful ministry in _____, _____ -Acts 19-20

God's ways are wiser, better than _____

Isaiah 55:8-9 Ephesians 3:19-20

9-10: Paul sees a vision. Companions interpret together & obey

Vision: Man from _____ → God's Word going to _____!

'_____ ' = used their reasoning and logic

same abilities that developed plans that God _____!

'_____ ' & '_____ ' = Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke?

'help us' = _____ the gospel

'ready at once' = prompt _____

importance & limitation of _____ initiative in Christian work

11-15: God works through continued obedience. Gospel spreads!

Philippi – Roman colony, leading city

Paul & companions obey...even deviating from _____

'_____ to find a place of prayer' = continued discernment

'_____ the city' ... (where's the synagogue? leaders of the cities?)

'speak to _____ ... (where's the man from Macedonia?)

_____ ... (where are the Jews?)

God's blessing: Lydia's new life & hospitality

Lydia: _____, business woman, wealthy, connected, spiritualist

open _____ → open _____...hospitality shows genuine belief

The Big Idea:

The Spirit of Jesus

_____ the _____ of his church

through _____

who _____ and _____ his voice

God's Guidance:

Not negative only...but also _____

Not _____ only...but also rational

Not personal only...but also _____

Application:

Be _____ ! → Beware of ' _____ ' _____ thinking

Matthew 16:23. Luke 22:42

_____ & _____ the voice of Jesus

Ways the Holy Spirit speaks:

Daily Listening Practice

Assures us of God's love

➤ Thanksgiving

Convicts us of sin

➤ Confession

Illumines minds in truth

➤ Meditation on Scripture

Guides in times of choices

➤ Pray through your day

_____ God to guide

Reflection

- What are your greatest fears about being guided by God?
- What principles of guidance do you see in the experience of Paul and his friends? When have you experienced guidance in these ways?
- Consider aspects of God's guidance: negative and positive, circumstantial and rational, individual and corporate. What aspects seem easier for you to recognize? Which are you prone to overlook?
- What do you think Jesus is saying to you at this point in your life, in the context of the challenges and opportunities you are facing?
- What indicators give you some measure of confidence that it is indeed Jesus speaking to you rather than someone or something else?