

Matt 16 "I will build my church" - we see an example in Acts 16

A Journey of ~685 Miles

Act 16:6-40 ESV And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. 7 And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. 8 So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. 11 So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days.

- **Jesus is building His church - He will direct us**
- **On our part, we simply have to be willing to respond to His promptings**
- **We have to remember our mission - he called us to preach the gospel to them**

To get to Lydia (685 miles)

13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. 14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. 15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

- **Jesus is building His church - There are people He is working within - prepared in advance**
- **The LORD opened her heart**
- **He saves entire households, not just one (Jeff Heslep)**
- **On our part, we have to be willing to go, sit down and speak - we are seeking those prepared**
- **She opened her home - it became mission central**

The power of Jesus is evident in the casting out of the demon

16 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." 18 And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, **"I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her."** And it came out that very hour. 19 But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. 20 And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. 21 They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice." 22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. 23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. 24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

When the LORD is building His church, all things work for the good, and for his glory

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were **listening** to them, 26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. 27 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." 29 And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 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**. 34 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.

- **Jesus is building His church we need to see “setbacks” as opportunities**
- **In the midst of trouble we must trust, and worship, and stay focused on the kingdom of God**
 - **They did not seek revenge on the jailer, they led him to eternal life**
 - **Once again there was the salvation of all his family**
- **Because of their testimony, how many of the prisoners were led to Jesus?**

Paul leaves Philippi, but he left behind the beginnings of a church

35 But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go." 36 And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace." 37 But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out." 38 The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens. 39 So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. 40 So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.

- **Jesus is building His church - already we see the church was growing**
- **The church was meeting in various places, Lydia's house, the riverside, the jailer's house - Lydia's house - mission central**

There is a thriving church in Philippi

- **Php 1:1-6 ESV Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.**

Here is my belief

Jesus is still building His church - He is still working in the lives of people

There are more Lydia's, and jailer's and demon possessed people out here all around us

It is evident that the LORD is willing to move heaven and earth to get to these people

There must be a heart in God's people

- 1) Willingness to be led by the Spirit
- 2) Willingness to speak of the good news of Jesus to others
- 3) Willingness to commit to the mission (good times or bad)
- 4) Training available Aug 21 (Friday evening) Aug 22 (Saturday)