

When Our Life Plans Are Changed...



Acts 16

1) What Paul planned – v. 1-8.

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

The Ascension

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? ⁷He said to them, It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. ¹⁸(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

²¹"May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it;

and

²²"Let another take his office."

²³So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²⁴beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection. ²⁵And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁶And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁷to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁸And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

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³Or tongues as of fire appeared to them, distributed among them, and rested 1Pe 4:14, 1Pe 1:12

Acts 16:4-8

⁴ Now while they were passing through the cities, they were delivering the decrees which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem, for them to observe.

⁵ So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.

**All Scriptures from 1995 New American Standard Bible*

Acts 16:4-8

⁶ They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia;

⁷ and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; ⁸ and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

Acts 16

2) What God planned – v. 9-10.

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

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The Ascension

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¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰"For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

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The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

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³Or tongues as of fire appeared to them, distributed among them, and rested 19b, 20b, 21b, 22b, 23b, 24b, 25b, 26b, 27b, 28b

Acts 16:9-10

⁹ A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Acts 16

3) Seeing God's blessing – v. 11-18.

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⁵And there appeared to them cloths of fire, and they were seated upon them. ⁶And the sound of a mighty rushing wind was heard, and the tongues appeared to them, as of fire, and rested upon each one of them. ⁷And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

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Acts 16:11-18

¹¹ So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis;

¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a *Roman* colony; and we were staying in this city for some days.

Acts 16:11-18

¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.

Acts 16:11-18

¹⁴ A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

Acts 16:11-18

¹⁵ And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

Acts 16:11-18

¹⁶ It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

Acts 16:11-18

¹⁷ Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, “These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation.”

Acts 16:11-18

¹⁸ She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!” And it came out at that very moment.

Acts 16

4) Seeing sin's problems – v. 19-24.

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³Or tongues as of fire appeared to them, distributed among them, and rested 1Pe 4:14-15, 1Pe 1:10-12

Acts 16:19-24

¹⁹ But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities,

Acts 16:19-24

²⁰ and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, “These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews,

²¹ and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans.”

Acts 16:19-24

²² The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order *them* to be beaten with rods.

Acts 16:19-24

²³ When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely;

²⁴ and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Acts 16

5) The attitude and faith we want to have – v. 25-34.

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Bartholomew Chosen to Replace Judas

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⁴Or falling up. ⁵Or And tongues as of fire appeared to them, distributed among them, and rested. 1 Pt. 1:10-12, 7 Pt. 1:10-12

Acts 16:25-34

²⁵ But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

Acts 16:25-34

²⁶ and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

Acts 16:25-34

²⁷ When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

²⁸ But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!”

Acts 16:25-34

²⁹ And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas,

³⁰ and after he brought them out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

Acts 16:25-34

³¹ 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 together with all who were in his house.

Acts 16:25-34

³³ And he took them that *very* hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his *household*.

³⁴ And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.

We Learn Something About...



1)...Life:

we will have unplanned detours.

Proverbs 16:9

⁹ The mind of man plans his way,
But the LORD directs his steps.

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart
And do not lean on your own
understanding.

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.

We Learn Something About...



2)...God:

He will open doors on that
unplanned path.

Genesis 50:20

²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

We Learn Something About...



3)...Conversion:

faith and baptism go together
in salvation.

Acts 16:31

³¹ They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

1 Peter 3:21

²¹ Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Acts 2:38

³⁸ Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 2:12

¹² having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

We Learn Something About...



4)...Faith:

may we glorify God wherever
we find ourselves.

Acts 16:25

²⁵ But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

Philippians 4:4

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

We Learn Something About...



5)...Opportunities:

we will miss them if we let
poor attitudes win.

Joshua 1:9

⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”