

THE MACEDONIAN CALL

Acts 16:6-10

INTRODUCTION

The Macedonian call in Acts 16:6-16 records how the Spirit of God intervened with explicit instructions to his missionaries about where they should take the gospel message. This rare occurrence highlights God's sovereignty over the direction of his Church and his compassion towards hurting people open to him.

THIS WEEK:

This week, discover from Acts 16:6-10 how God's compassion and initiative towards hurting people should motivate and guide our own efforts to bring his message to the whole world.

OBSERVATION *What does it SAY?*

Discover key details of the passage by reading Acts 16:6-10 and then answering the following questions:

1. After traveling through Galatia, why didn't the missionaries proceed into Asia (v. 6)?
2. As they approached Mysia, what kept them from entering into Bithynia (v. 7)?
3. Describe the vision Paul saw in Troas (v. 9):
4. What was the consensus about the vision Paul had (v. 10)?

INTERPRETATION *What does it MEAN?*

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible. Look up the cross references and use them to interpret the passage under study:



The Route to Troas: Acts 16:6-10

5. What spiritual prerequisites are required for those who want to discern God's leading (Psa 66:18; Matt. 6:33; Pro 3:5; Jer 29:13; Jam 1:5-8; Heb 11:6)? How did the missionaries reflect these prerequisites?
6. Such explicit guidance by the Spirit to specific individuals in this way is an extremely rare occurrence in the scriptures. By doing it this way, God made it clear that he wanted the missionaries to prioritize Macedonia in their evangelism efforts. What does the Macedonian man's plea in verse 10 suggest about the spiritual temperature of the people in the region (Luke 5:31-32; 19:5)?
7. How does the way God framed the vision of the Macedonian man for Paul reveal God's compassion (Luke 15:1-10)?
8. What specific people in the region of Macedonia are the ones to whom the vision of the Macedonian man probably points (Acts 16: 14, 16, 29-31)?

APPLICATION *Why does it matter?*

Now that you know what the passage means, think through the various ways it may apply to your life or the lives of others:

9. Many people today struggle to discern God's leading. Based on your answers to question 5, what could be some reasons for this?

10. Considering your answer to question 6, how did God's sovereignty relate to the opening or closing of the door of the Gospel to you personally?

11. Where have you, or where do you currently recognize God's compassion in his dealings with you personally?

12. Everyone in your sphere of influence may not presently be ready for or open to the help God provides in the gospel, but some most certainly are. What obstacles do you face to (1) knowing who they are and (2) engaging with them on the spiritual plane?

TAKE AWAY *How does this change me?*

13. What does this passage reveal about God?

14. What does this passage reveal about humanity?

15. What is the Holy Spirit revealing in this passage about your life?