

LESSON 28

PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

References: Acts . 15-16 Chapters

Memory verse : Acts. 26: 19 -20

Objective: To understand that Gospel means "go" and "spell" and that it is not to be confined within any limits. Starting from home the Gospel must be taken as far as to the uttermost parts of the earth. Let us draw inspiration from Pauls Zeal for the Gospel.

Introduction: After the first Church council in Jerusalem, Paul sets out on another Journey. In that second missionary journey the gospel was taken to Europe. Paul began his writing during this trip is interesting to note the main events on this tour and acquaint ourselves with the places of his visit. We will also study which epistles were written during this time.

COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM:

The main subject of Acts chapter 15 is what we call the first Church council at Jerusalem. The council discussed the pros and cons of the argument that the Judaists brought. They imposed the observance of Jewish rituals on the new converts from Gentile background. The arguement of the Judaists was that the Gentile converts must be circumcised. But it was against the doctrine of the New Testament. Hence arose the need of a councll to discuss and make a final decision regarding the same. The outcome was quite positive and bright. The salvation by faith apart from the law was throughly established. Paul was very much delighted by this stress on the faith aspect of salvation(Gal. 2:11)

Soon after the Church Council at Jerusalem, Paul went to Antioch and set out on his second missionary Journey.

THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY **(A .D .50-53) Acts.15: 35 -18 : 22**

It was during the second missionary journey that the Gospel was introduced to Europe. Also Paul began to make use of his pen during this journey. Barnabas, Paul's companion in the first missionary journey was not with him now. Instead, Silas, Timothy and Luke accompanied him.

PAUL AND BARNABAS SEPARATE: (15: 25-40)

There was a dispute between Paul and Barnabas over John Mark. Paul argued that Mark was not fit for the work as he had returned home from Perga in the first journey. Barnabas, however was not that rigid but wanted to encourage Mark giving him one more chance. Barnabas took Mark his young nephew and went to Cyprus his native place. Paul and Silas went on their visit to the former places, through Syria and Cilicia.

TIMOTHY: (16: 1-5)

As Paul reached Lystra where he suffered the most cruel persecution he met a young timid and loyal disciple who was converted as the result of Paul's suffering there. Paul had a special affection for this young man Timothy who became his disciple and associate worker. Paul decided to circumcise Timothy in order to regularize his positions a Jew. His father was a Greek and it was known to all Jews that he was not circumcised. Paul gave consent to his circumcision so that he might be acceptable in the Jewish homes and synagogues. We read about his mother and grandmother in Paul's epistle. (2 Tim 1:5).

THE NEWLY VISITED PLACES.

A. Galatia in Asia Minor:

The Churches in Galatia were established during this journey of Paul. Because of ill health Paul had to stay longer in Galatia. You can learn from the epistle to Galatians how Paul was treated by them and how much impact his ministry had on them (Gal. 4:12, 3:1-5).

There were certain places where Paul was prevented to go. Which

were those places? (Acts. 16: 6,7). He was forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the Word in Asia. But in the third missionary journey the Lord gave him chances to work a good while in Asia. The Lord led him this time to Europe which was more ripe for the Gospel.

MACEDONIAN CALL:

Travelling 900 miles by land, they reached Troas an important port city on the North west of Asia. Looking westward from there one could get a clear view of the European coast. Here at Troas, Paul had a vision of a Macedonian inviting him to go over there and help.

LUKE JOINS THE PARTY:

From Troas Luke joined the party. For we see in the account of journey from here the pronoun 'We' (Acts. 16:10). Luke was the author of the book of Acts and his Gospel. He was a Physician.

B. In Macedonian province of Europe:

Philippi - Paul reached philippi first with the Gospel which was an important city in Macedonea, the birth place of Alexander the Great. The City of Philippi was built by Alexanders father Philip. With the Roman Conquest, Philippi became a Roman colony. Since there were not very many Jews in that area there was no synagogue. The few devout Jews in Philippi used to get together on sabbath in the riverside a quite place near the town.

LYDIA- THE FIRST CONVERT IN EUROPE (16: 11-15)

The first convert of Europe was a business woman named Lydia of Thyatira in the province of Asia. The first meeting Paul conducted was of a few women. The Lord opened the heart of Lydia to hear the Word of God. She and her household believed in the Lord who opened her heart. The first church meeting in Europe was in the House of Lydia (16:40)

THE DEMON CAST OUT:

At Philippi there were some people who earned a lot of money through a slavegirl who predicted the future with a spirit of divination. She followed Paul-an other apostles shouting, "These men are the servants of the Most High God! They announce to you how you can be saved. She did this for many days, until Paul became so upset that he

turned round and said to the spirit, " In the name of Jesus Christ I order you to come out of her! . The spirit went out of her that very moment. When her owners realised that their profit was lost, they siezed Paul and Silas and dragged them to the public square.

The city was in an uproar. A large crowd gathered there. They brought Paul and Silas before the Roman officials and made false accusations against them saying, " These men are Jews and they are causing trouble in our city. They are teaching customs that are against our Law,..... We cannot accept these customs or practise them". and the crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas.

PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON:

The officials tore off the clothes of Paul and Silas and ordered that they might be whipped. After a severe beating, they were thrown into Jail and the jailer was ordered to keep them in tight lock up. why? May be, they had thought that these men who expelled the demon of the girl must be extraordinary.

In the darkest inner cell, Paul and Silas were locked with their feet fastened between heavy blocks of wood. Sustaining deep injuries by severe beating and hands in iron fetters Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns to God. Why did they sing? They were happy because God had considered them worthy to suffer disgrace (Shame) for His name (Act. 5: 41; Mtt.5:11-12). Other prisoners were listening to this strange thing.

Suddenly here was a violent earthquake. It shook the prison to its foundations. At once all the doors were opened, and the chains fell off all the prisoners. But no prisoner moved away.

JAILER ATTEMPTS SUICIDE:

The Jailor woke-up, when he saw the prison doors open he thought that the prisoners had escaped. So he pulled out his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul shouted at the top of his voice, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here. God wants nobody to be perished but everyone to be saved (2 Pet. 3: 9, Jn. 10:10).

WHAT MUST ONE DO TO BE SAVED?

The jailer called for a light, rushed in and fell trembling at the feet of Paul and Silas. Then he asked them, Sirs what must I do to be

saved? This is a question before all men. God's answer is always the same: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved". Paul preached the gospel to the Jailer and his family. They received his word and accepted Christ. They were baptised overnight. Paul and Silas had food only afterwards (Acts. 16:34).

The Jailer and his family were filled with joy. Imagine what would have been their condition if Paul's message had not reached the jailer in due time! Then the jailer might have killed himself and his family been in depth of sorrow.

ROMAN CITIZEN:

The next morning, the Roman authorities who heard about this strange happening, made haste to let Paul and Silas go. But Paul said to the officers, "We were not found guilty of any crime yet they whipped us in public and we are Roman citizens and now they want to send us away secretly. Not likely! The Roman officials themselves must come here and let us out". The Officials (of Philippi a Roman Colony) realised the seriousness of the matter. They were afraid that the presence of Paul and Silas in the city would be harmful to their position. So they came to Paul and apologized to them. Then Paul and Silas left the prison and went to Lydia's house, where the believers were praying for their deliverance.

The Church arose at Philippi in the midst of persecutions and reproach. The Church later became a source of comfort to Paul (Phili. 4: 10-20). With the conversion of the Jailer, the Church was on the progressive move. Luke stayed behind and ministered there. (From, Acts. 17:1) We see that from here the account is given with the pronoun 'they'. So we understand that Luke stayed behind there). After many years, Paul wrote to the church from the Roman prison. That is the epistle to Philippians. The word 'Joy' is found throughout this epistle.

Note: There are some who argue that in the families of Lydia and Jailer who were baptised, there must have been children and they had also been inclusive in baptism. But it is erroneous. Only those who believed their word and accepted Christ were baptised. There is not a single instance in the New Testament in which children are said to have been baptised. Infant baptism was neither the teaching of the apostles nor the precedent (Practice) of the early Church.

EXERCISE 28**Answer the following questions**

1. What is the meaning of the Gospel?
2. What was the argument of the Judaists?
3. Who accompanied Paul during his 2nd missionary journey?
4. Why was there a dispute between Paul and Barnabas?
5. Whom did Paul meet at Lystra?
6. Why did Paul decide to circumcise Timothy?
7. Which vision did Paul have at Troas?
8. Who was the first convert of Europe?
9. Why did Paul and Silas sing hymns in the prison?
10. What happened when they were singing hymns?
11. Why did the Jailer attempt to kill himself?
12. What did the Jailer ask Paul and Silas?

