

Paul's Second Missionary Journey Part I

The Macedonian Call

(Acts 15:36-16:10)

Introduction:

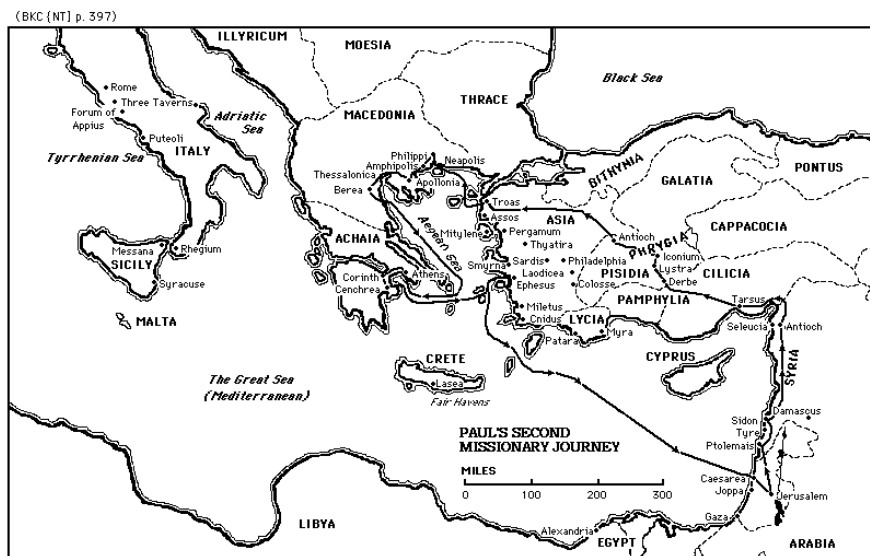
1. Understanding the background leading to Paul's "Second Missionary Journey"
 - Let's review what cities that Paul & Barnabas visited on his First Missionary Journey:
 - 1) _____ on the Island of Cyprus
 - 2) _____ also on the Island of Cyprus
 - 3) _____ of Pisidia
 - 4) _____, _____, and _____ of Southern Galatia.
 - 5) Perga
 - After Paul and Barnabas completed their First Missionary Journey they returned to Antioch and spent approximately two years there (A.D. 47-49ish)
 - After some disturbance from a group of false teachers (Judaizers); Paul and Barnabas will go to Jerusalem to resolves the issue of the Gentiles being saved. The conclusions of the apostles and elders remained the same; "salvation was by grace alone". Therefore the Judaizers were in error.

2. Paul, Barnabas, Judas and Silas returned to Antioch for the purposes of delivering a letter to the believers there and also to encourage them in their faith. (Acts 15:30-32)
 - The news from Jerusalem was received well by those believers in Antioch for it was determined that their faith in Christ was the same as those in Jerusalem.
 - They too were considered brothers and sisters in Christ and they were to ignore the false teachings that salvation was by works.
 - Paul, Barnabas, Mark and Silas (see Acts 15:40) remained in Antioch. It appears that Judas and others departed and probably returned to Jerusalem.
3. At some point Paul determines that it would be good to return and visit the “brethren” in those cities where they traveled on their first journey. (Acts 15:36)
4. A disagreement developed between Paul and Barnabas:
 - Barnabas wanted to take Mark with them
 - Paul did not want to take Mark because he had deserted them when they were in Pamphylia. (Acts 13:13)
5. This disagreement caused Paul and Barnabas to part company:
 - Barnabas will take Mark and sail to Cyprus
 - Paul will take Silas and travels throughout the region of Syria and Cilicia (see your map).
 - 1) The region of Cilicia is where Paul’s hometown of Tarsus is located
 - 2) They will eventually end up in Derbe & Lystra

6. A few speculative thoughts:

- Disagreements are human reactions that may seem problematic
 - 1) Sometimes they are the result of selfish behavior and ambition
 - 2) Sometimes they are the result of seeing things from different perspectives
 - 3) Perhaps as uncomfortable as disagreements may be; the results don't always need to be looked at as bad.
- Perhaps we should see the positive in this whole thing as more was accomplished by the two groups than could have with just one:
 - 1) Perhaps Mark wasn't ready for such a strong emphasis toward a Gentile ministry
 - 2) Silas (being a Roman citizen) was skilled in the Greek language and customs which made him a good choice in encouraging the believers where they were headed.

Here is what the Second Missionary Journey looked like:



First Stop – Derbe, Lystra & Iconium (Acts 16:1-5)

1. Can you recall two significant things that happened on Paul’s first visit to Lystra?
 - _____ (Acts 14:8-10)
 - _____ (Acts 14:19)

2. On Paul’s second visit to Lystra he will meet up with a young man named _____. (Acts 16:1-3)
 - It is probably not by accident that Paul’s route took him to Lystra and Derbe first instead of towards the end as occurred on his first journey. Since Barnabas and Mark had already went toward Cyprus it only made sense to go the direction that Paul did – but I doubt it was just circumstantial.
 - 1) Having lost Barnabas but gaining Silas was a plus in that Silas had all of the right qualifications for the ministry they were about to embark on.
 - 2) It was the addition of Timothy (a sort of replacement for Mark) that allowed Paul to pour his heart and soul into this young man. He (Timothy) of course would go on to Pastor/shepherd several of the churches that were started as a result of their ministry, the largest of which was Ephesus.
 - 3) Timothy would become Paul’s right hand man (I Corinthians 4:17, I Thessalonians 3:2, Philippians 2:19), and he was dearly loved by Paul (I Timothy 1:2, II Timothy 1:2)
 - 4) These kinds of “providential leadings” are good reminders that God is in control and He will accomplish His will in spite of our shortcomings!

- What made Timothy such a good choice?
 - 1) His mother _____ was _____ giving him a basic understanding of their customs and laws.
 - 2) His father was a _____; giving him a sense of cultural awareness to those whom he and Paul would be ministering to.
 - 3) He had a _____ reputation within the community, which is something that Paul identifies as a key character trait of a church leader (an elder, or deacon – see I Timothy 3:2, 10).

- It was Paul’s intent to have Timothy join them (Acts 16:3) on the remainder of their journey.

- Paul felt that it would be wise to circumcise Timothy to avoid any offense and or confrontation from the Jewish communities they would be visiting along the way. (see I Corinthians 9:19-23)
 - 1) This was not a contradiction to what Paul records in Galatians 2:3-5, nor was he going against the ruling of the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15). We know this because his reason for doing it was not for the purposes of salvation.
 - 2) What reason does Paul give for circumcising Timothy? (Acts 16:3)
 - 3) The absence of any objections from either the Jewish or Greek community seems to support the idea was a good one. There is no record that it disrupted the faith of the Gentile community nor did it stir up the Jewish community against their ministry. If anything I would conclude it was a good gesture on Timothy’s part to help diffuse tension and allow for the Gospel to penetrate the hearts of the Jews in that region.

3. The purpose of their visit (Acts 16:4-5)
 - What was the primary reason that Paul re-visited the churches in the region of Southern Galatia (Derbe, Lystra, and Iconium)?

 - What were the results of their ministry in Southern Galatia? (Acts 16:5)

The Call to Macedonia (Acts 16:6-10)

1. They (Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke - see Acts 16:10) will leave Lystra and head further west via the region of Galatia (Phrygia).

2. It seems that Paul was intending to head towards Ephesus which was then identified as Asia.
 - This region (Asia) would later see a number of churches established (Ephesus, Smyrna, Sardis, Thyatira, Philadelphia, Laodicea, Colosse, Pergamum), but God had other plans for this visit.

 - It became abundantly clear to Paul that he was not to go west toward Ephesus (at least this time – Acts 16:6) so they head north. (see map of Paul's Second Missionary Journey)

3. Once they arrive in Mysia (see map) they attempted to head into the region of Bithynia (this would be back toward Northern Galatia), but they received instructions not to proceed in that direction either. (Acts 16:7)

4. They then leave Mysia and head southwest to Troas (Acts 16:9-10)
 - Troas was a seaport city located on the Aegean Sea near the ancient city of Troy (this is for you history buffs).
 - While in Troas, Paul receives a vision where a man appeals to Paul that they should come to Macedonia. (Acts 16:9)
 - We are not told a lot of the specifics of the vision but it became abundantly clear to Paul that they needed to head west toward Macedonia. (Acts 16:10)
 - 1) What did they conclude was their mission in Macedonia?
 - 2) We will learn the significance of their visit as their first stop in the region of Macedonia will be _____. This visit is clearly a divine appointment but we'll see the results of that visit next week!
5. One notable thing worth mentioning is Luke's choice of the word "we" in Acts 16:10 which indicates he was also a traveling companion of Paul's – at least on this journey forward.

Concluding Thoughts:

1. The key to knowing God's will is to do His will
 - This is accomplished through being _____
 - This is accomplished through _____ Him
 - This is accomplished through being _____ to His leading
2. How do we know when we are doing the will of God?