

**LIFE DURING LOCKDOWN #1**  
**“The Founding of the Church at Philippi”**  
**Acts 16**

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Pastor Bruce is beginning a new series this morning on the book of Philippians. The apostle Paul wrote this letter during his lockdown in Rome. He was under house arrest, chained to a Roman guard for a period of two years. Paul had a lot of time on his hands, so he was able to do a lot of thinking, praying and writing. We gain many insights about how Paul was able to cope with life during his lockdown, which will enable us to better cope during our Covid-19 lockdown. This morning, Dr. Bruce will discuss how the church at Philippi was founded.

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**#1. MISSIONARY WORK IS A TEAM EFFORT, 16:1-5**

- A. Timothy was a teenager, v. 1
- B. Timothy’s parents entrusted him to Paul, vv. 2-3
- C. Timothy was Paul’s protégé, v. 3
- D. Timothy was on Paul’s team, v. 3
- E. The team visited church & strengthened them, vv. 4-5

**#2. MISSIONARY WORK IS DIRECTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, 16:6-10**

- A. Paul wanted to go to Asia, v. 6
- B. The Holy Spirit had other plans, vv. 7-8
- C. The Holy Spirit spoke to Paul in a vision, v. 9
- D. The Holy Spirit sent Paul to Macedonia, v. 10

**#3. MISSIONARY WORK TARGETS STRATEGIC AREAS, 16:11-12**

- A. Paul is now in Europe, v. 11
- B. Philippi was a Roman colony with retired soldiers, v. 12
- C. Philippi was a little Italy, v. 12
- D. Philippi was a garrison city of about 10,000 people, v. 12

**#4. MISSIONARY WORK IS ABOUT FOUNDING CHURCHES, 16:13-18**

- A. The first convert is Lydia then her household, vv. 13-15
- B. The second convert is a demonized slave girl, vv. 16-18

**#5. MISSIONARY WORK WILL OFTEN INVOLVE PERSECUTION, 16:19-26**

- A. Paul & Silas were brought to the authorities, vv. 19-21
- B. The crowd joined in the attack, v. 22
- C. The magistrates had Paul & Silas stripped & flogged, vv. 22-23
- D. They threw Paul & Silas in jail, feet in stocks, vv. 23-24
- E. They were heard praying & singing hymns, v. 25
- F. God miraculously intervened and freed them, v. 26

**#6. MISSIONARY WORK INVOLVES DIVINE APPOINTMENTS, 16:27-34**

- A. The jailer was ready to kill himself, vv. 27-28
- B. The jailer asked, “Sirs what must I do to be saved”, vv. 29-30
- C. They shared the gospel with him & his family, vv. 31-32
- D. They baptized the entire family, v. 33
- E. The jailer is the third convert & his family, v. 34

**#7. MISSIONARY WORK MAY HAVE AN EXTREME COST, 16:35-40**

- A. Paul & Silas were beaten illegally as Roman citizens, vv. 35-37
  - B. The magistrates were afraid & escorted out of the city, vv. 38-39
  - C. They went to Lydia’s house where the church met, v. 40
  - D. They left as requested, v. 40
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**TODAY’S SCRIPTURE**

**Acts 16:1-40:** He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. <sup>2</sup>The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. <sup>3</sup>Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. <sup>4</sup>As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. <sup>5</sup>So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

<sup>6</sup>Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. <sup>7</sup>When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. <sup>8</sup>So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup>During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come

over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup>After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

<sup>11</sup>From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. <sup>12</sup>From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

<sup>13</sup>On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup>One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. <sup>15</sup>When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

<sup>16</sup>Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup>This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." <sup>18</sup>She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

<sup>19</sup>When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. <sup>20</sup>They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar <sup>21</sup>by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice." <sup>22</sup>The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. <sup>23</sup>After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. <sup>24</sup>Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. <sup>25</sup>About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup>Suddenly there was such a

violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.

<sup>27</sup>The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup>But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" <sup>29</sup>The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup>He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup>They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household." <sup>32</sup>Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. <sup>33</sup>At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. <sup>34</sup>The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God--he and his whole family.

<sup>35</sup>When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: "Release those men." <sup>36</sup>The jailer told Paul, "The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace." <sup>37</sup>But Paul said to the officers: "They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out." <sup>38</sup>The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. <sup>39</sup>They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city. <sup>40</sup>After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and encouraged them. Then they left.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. What are your thoughts about Timothy's parents letting him go with Paul?
- #2. Why was it important for Paul to train people by taking them with him on his journeys?
- #3. Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in sending Paul into Macedonia? (see Acts 13:1-3)

#4. The first convert in Europe was Lydia. What observations can you make about her? (vv. 13-15)

#5. The second convert was demonized slave girl who was set free. What observations can you make about her? (vv. 16-18)

#6. Some of the converts may have witnessed Paul & Silas be publicly flogged. What do you think the converts were thinking about this?

#7. We don't know if Timothy witnessed the beating or not, but what do you think Timothy thought about this?

#8. What observations can you make about Paul & Silas when they were in prison? (vv. 24-26)

#9. What observations can you make about the Philippian jailer? (vv. 27-34)

#10. Why didn't Paul & Silas tell the authorities that they were Roman citizens before they flogged them? They could have avoided the beating!

#11. The Holy Spirit led Paul, and his team, to Philippi which resulted in a newly founded church. However, it cost them dearly. What do you think Paul and Silas thought about that? What about Timothy?

#12. What is your takeaway from this teaching?