

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Are Visions for Today?

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Scripture: **Acts 16:6–10**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

Even when Paul and his companions had their own plans to preach and minister in various cities, the Holy Spirit redirected them—twice—and led them westward. When they arrived in Troas, during the night Paul had a vision of a man begging Paul to come to Macedonia to help them. Before receiving this vision, it's likely he questioned what God was doing and why God kept changing his plans (even plans that seemed God-centered). However, it was not for Paul to know why God was changing his plans. Instead, God was calling Paul to submit and trust in God's plans, not his own. The truth for all believers is: **God is calling you today. How will you respond?**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Proverbs 16:9; Isaiah 55:8-9; Psalm 19:7-11; John 3:16

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In the midst of trials or times of uncertainty, is it sometimes difficult for you to be patient and wait on the Lord? In such times, is it difficult to rest in the truth that God is good? Explain a time in your life when you struggled to wait on the Lord and instead chose your own path. What was the outcome? What did you learn from that experience?
2. Conversely, in these times, are you able to submit to God and find comfort in His providential care while not knowing the immediate outcome? Explain a time in your life when you chose to submit to the Lord and wait on Him instead of going your own way. How was your faith strengthened? How was the faith of those around you strengthened?
3. We often ask the question, "What am I supposed to do now?" Perhaps our predicament arose from our own bad choices. Or perhaps it arose from circumstances outside of our control. Either way, we sometimes want God to give us a sign. We want God to show up in a big way and make things clear to us. Why do you think it's tempting for people to think this way? Is it biblical for us to demand such signs from God? Why or why not?
4. Sometimes God has to step in and frustrate our plans. Is there a circumstance in your life currently where you're sensing that God is frustrating your plans? Are you able to discern God's calling in this area? Perhaps He's calling you to be patient and wait. If so, how will you respond? What steps are you taking, or need to take, in order to discern God's calling?
5. When God closes a door on our plans, we sometimes respond in anger. Even worse, our anger can lead to apathy, where we no longer trust that God knows what He's doing. How can we guard against this unbelieving mindset? How can we learn to trust that God is drawing near to us even when we don't get what we want?