

Acts 16:9-25 Sermon Discussion Questions

Sermon of 09/06/2015

A. "Compelling Mission" (vs. 9-10)

1. What means did God use to "compel" Paul to go to Macedonia to share the gospel?
2. In your life as an individual and in our life as a congregation, what means does God use to compel us to share the gospel with others?
3. Which of the three vision slogans of CPC speaks to this compelling vision?

B. "Inclusive Mission" (vs. 11-24)

1. Thus far in Acts, what people group were the early Jewish Christians tempted to avoid or demean because of their cultural prejudice?
2. What was a common prayer that many Jewish men prayed daily (based on Rabbinic tradition, not Scripture). "I thank you God what I was not born a _____, _____, or a _____."

In vs. 11-24, who responded to the gospel?

3. Are there deeply engrained cultural attitudes that might prejudice us against any specific people groups? If so, what are they? What should we do about those attitudes? How are they antithetical to the gospel?
4. What strategic role did women play in the book of Acts?
5. Do you agree with the statement adopted by the Session (elders) of CPC this summer that: *"It is the Session's desire that women at Central Presbyterian Church participate fully in the ministry and leadership of the church using their gifts in as many ways as biblically permitted."*

C. "Sovereign Mission" (vs. 14)

1. What is the "natural/fallen" nature of the human heart according to Jesus (Mark 7:20-23)?
2. What does God promise to do in the Old Testament to transform the human heart (Ezekiel 36:25-27)?
3. What did God do to Lydia's heart, and was this before or after her conversion?
4. What has God done to your heart?

5. Who, then, gets the credit/glory for you being a Christian? Is there any room for pride in us, especially as we compare ourselves to others?
- D. “Costly Mission” (vs. 16-25)
1. What does the supernatural deliverance of the slave girl teach us about:
 - i. the reality of spiritual warfare
 - ii. the power of the gospel
 - iii. the inclusiveness of the gospel
 2. Why were her owner’s so upset, and what did they do?
 3. Pastor Hopper used the term “follow the money” in an attempt to describe the relationship between secular idolatry and anti-Christian hostility. Do you agree with the idea that as our culture becomes increasingly pagan, the Christian church will become increasingly targeted as a threat that must be silenced or removed?
 4. After their arrest and beating, what were Paul and Silas doing in prison (vs. 25)? What does this tell us about the peace, power, and joy of the gospel?