

GOD'S CALL, THE RIGHT RESPONSE

Acts 16:9-15

Introduction: In the Christian's life there is God and the lost. There are two other things present: God's call and our response which will be either negative or positive and we DO respond in one of these two ways. Our bible tells us of others who heard God's call and how they responded. Paul was one of those who heard God's call. In this passage we learn how to positively respond to God's call.

Paul had wanted to preach the gospel to those in Asia but so far he had been prohibited by God. With him were Luke, who is thought to have written this book of Acts, Silas and Timothy. Paul and his friends had just tried to go into Bithynia but the Holy Spirit had refused to let them and as we come upon them in this text, they have stopped for the night in Troas.

I. GOD'S CALL TO PAUL (vv 9-10)

1. All the mystery which had clouded Paul's vision as to where and why he was going was wiped away by God.
2. Paul, being excited, probably woke up those with him.
3. One thing was clear to Paul now, God had spoken to him, God had called him into service.
4. Today, we don't have to have a vision as where to go for the Lord for our entire world is lost.

II. PAUL'S RESPONSE TO GOD'S CALL (vv 11-12)

1. Paul didn't question the call of God.
2. Paul was ready to go.
3. Paul hurried with his friends to the boat docks.
4. They boarded a ship to Neapolis.
5. The boat stopped overnight at Samothracia, an island used to keep criminals.
6. Paul was no doubt impatient, anxious, in a hurry.
7. They sailed into Neapolis the next day.
8. They walked to Philippi.
 - Philippi was the chief city of that part of Macedonia, a county seat town of sorts.
 - A colony where Roman soldiers retired, a stronghold, a strategic location at a crossroad, and where pagan worships of all sorts were carried on.
 - They found lodging in Philippi.

III. THE RESULTS OF GOD'S CALL AND PAUL'S RESPONSE (vv 13-15)

1. After looking around town Paul found no synagogue or Jewish temple.
2. On the Sabbath, Paul and his companions found women meeting on the side of the river, which was proper for Jews, as there was plenty of water for ceremonies and such.
3. Only women were there and after conversing with them, Paul preached Jesus to them.
4. Lydia, a seller of very expensive purple garments, a wealthy woman, was saved. She then hurried home to tell her household of what had happened to her and her household also believed.
5. Lydia, then persuaded Paul and his companions to come stay with her while they were in Philippi.
6. A church was established in Philippi, a strategic location and victory for the Lord Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

1. God called Paul to go.
2. Paul heard God's call and went.
3. People were saved and a church was established because of Paul's obedience to God's call.
4. We, too, need to be listening for God's call and respond as Paul in a positive manner.
5. Remember, when God calls you, He has selected YOU and has something only YOU can do for Him. Others will benefit from your obedience to God's call.