

Ep.1355: Why Didn't Paul Preach in Asia?

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- 1. What was Paul's purpose in traveling to Jerusalem before going on his second missionary journey? What continent was Paul on when he was in Jerusalem and Antioch (his "home base")? (Acts 15, 16:1-5)
- 2. As Paul and his companions approached the Roman province of Asia, what happened to their plans to evangelize in that province? What was the mission given to Paul by Jesus? Did Paul take this seriously? Did Jesus encourage Paul to fulfill his mission in the province of Asia? (Acts 9:13-16, 16:6)
- 3. Relate the events of Acts 16:7. What are the two parts of the "big picture" Jesus describes in Luke 24:46-47? Why is God's big picture important to keep in mind during our own daily challenges? How did the big picture figure into Peter's mission in 1 Peter 1:1-2?
- 4. What was the vision Paul had in Troas? What was Jesus driven to do by God's spirit? How do Paul and his companions reflect "the spirit of Jesus" in a similar way as Jesus reflected God's spirit? (Acts 16:8-10, Luke 4:17-21)
- 5. How did the Macedonian brethren respond to the gospel preached to them? What was their condition financially? How did they react to hearing of brethren far off who were struggling? Explain how Paul's journey to Macedonia was profitable for the spreading of the gospel. (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)
- 6. Have you ever planned to do something to serve God and had that plan thwarted? Has this episode helped you gain perspective over your frustrated actions?
- 7. Why was Macedonia's geographic position important for the spreading of the gospel? Explain how Jesus' statements in Luke 24:47 were fulfilled through Paul NOT preaching in the provinces of Asia and Bithynia. What blessings did Paul receive for following the heavenly instructions rather than indulging his own preferences?
- 8. Have you received unexpected blessings like Paul found in Macedonia after your plans went awry? Please discuss blessings you have received and spiritual/character growth you have noticed in yourself from the challenges you go through in daily life.

