

# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## ACTS 16:6-15 | LESSON SUMMARY

### Holy Spirit Says "No"

**ACTS 16:6-7**, "And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them." (ESV)

- "Forbidden" by the Holy Spirit
  - God's timing
- Asia
  - Not the continent
  - Luke and Paul use different names/references to places
  - "Asia" refers to a Roman province that would have been located in modern-day Turkey
- Bythnia another "no"
  - On the Black Sea, the Bosphorus, and the Sea of Marmara
- Troas
  - Samothrace → Neapolis → Phillipi
  - Neapolis to Phillipi: Via Egnatia
    - Military highway for commercial goods
    - Over 500 miles



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**ACTS 16:9**, "And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." (ESV)

- Man of Macedonia
- Macedonia = today Northern Greece
  - Phillipi: military & politically important
  - Military: named after Phillip of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great.
  - Political: Mark Antony defeated Caesar's assassins on a nearby plain in 42 B.C., prompting Augustus to re-found the colony "Colonia Iulia Augusta Philippensium"

**ACTS 16:10**, "And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them." (ESV)

- Pronoun "we"
- New team member: Luke



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ACTS 16:14, "One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul." (ESV)

- Phillipi is a Roman colony, a proud military heritage for the Romans
  - They gather by the riverside, which tells us that there is no synagogue and thus, not many Jews
- "Purple goods"
  - Process of dyeing cloth tedious and expensive
  - Color reserved for wealthy/elite

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Zondervan, Holman Bible Atlas, Acts: Archeological Study Bible, John B. Miller, Convinced That God Had Called Us, C. Hemer, The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History

