



OPEN THE DOOR TO SACRIFICE - ACTS 16:1-10

STARTING THE DISCUSSION...

What would you be willing to give up, in order to tell someone about Jesus? Most of the time it does not cost us anything too big to share what Jesus has done, but there are other times where being faithful to share the good news means it will cost us a great deal. Even to open doors to share the gospel may be an uncomfortable experience. It certainly was an uncomfortable experience for young Timothy as he begins to travel with Paul preaching the gospel. Timothy ends up being circumcised so that there wouldn't be a barrier to sharing about Jesus with anyone. Yet that faith that he shows ought to be an encouragement for us to be willing to give up our own comforts for the sake of the gospel. Are we willing to be uncomfortable? Are we willing to follow the Holy Spirit when he leads us?

KEY TEXT: ACTS 16:1-10

¹Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ²He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. ³Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. ⁵So the



churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

⁶ And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷ And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸ So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. 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." 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.

Additional Texts: *Galatians 2:3-5, 5:2-6, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Mark 10:17-22, Ephesians 6:12, 1 Peter 3:15, Romans 5:8, 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15*

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Why does Paul circumcise Timothy? Why doesn't he circumcise Titus? (Galatians 2:3-5) What do we learn from these two actions?
2. Why does the Holy Spirit stop Paul from preaching? What do we learn about how the Holy Spirit leads us from this passage?

APPLYING THE WORD

3. What areas of your life do you find that you put your faith in stuff rather than Jesus?
4. What prevents you from surrendering everything to Jesus? How can you overcome those obstacles? Who can hold you accountable?
5. What things interfere with us hearing from God?

PRAYING & ACTING

1. Share with your group the name(s) of one or two people that you would like the opportunity to share the gospel with in your life. Pray that God would give you opportunities to share and hold one another accountable to be reaching out.



2. How can your Life Group reach out to your community this week?
Who can you invite to join your group?

