



Our Calling and the Mission of God

Text: Acts 16:6-10, 14, 17-18, 29-33 (ESV)

1. Our healthy desires don't always align with God's direction for us.

(Acts 16:6-7)

- God's call on our life is working within His larger vision.

2. God has designed His mission to be accomplished through His people.

(Acts 16:8-10)

- All throughout the Bible God is inviting people into His work. At the expense of His glory, resources, and time.
- We are the means by which the world will hear the Gospel.

3. Obedience brings varied results.

◇ Lydia

Acts 16:14-15 (ESV)

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. ¹⁵ And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

◇ Demon Possessed Slave Girl

Acts 16:17-18 (ESV)

She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." ¹⁸ And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

◇ Philippian Jailer

Acts 16:29-33 (ESV)

And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.

TWO UNHEALTHY PERSPECTIVES ON FOLLOWING GOD'S CALL:

1. God the killjoy: God just wants to punish you. He is out to make your life miserable. Based on evidence around you, feelings, background, etc.
2. God the happiness provider: God's call on my life always involves health, wealth, prosperity and good.
 - Obedience served as the rails for their calling.

Practical: How do we know what we are called to?

Does it contradict scripture?

What does your close Godly counsel say?

Will this hinder Gospel growth in your life?

Will this cost you to die to yourself?

Will this stretch you and increase your dependency on God?