

## That The World May Know: Walk As Jesus Walked - Session 3: An Unlikely Disciple

### Paul Becomes More Like Jesus

Unlikely disciples do not become great champions of the faith overnight. They must be trained to passionately and faithfully obey God. They must, in New Testament language, learn to walk as Jesus walked. They must, as Jesus commanded in Matthew 28:19 – 20, become disciples who make disciples.

- 1 The apostle Paul was always zealous and bold in his walk with God. This does not mean that his actions were always perfectly in line with what God wanted.
  - a. What did Paul know he had to learn along the way?  
1 Timothy 1:15 – 16
  - b. What did Paul and Barnabas say to jealous Jews in Antioch?  
Acts 13:42 – 46
  - c. What is significant about where Paul and Barnabas first spoke in Iconium?  
Acts 14:1
- 2 Paul and Barnabas traveled together to spread the Gospel.
  - a. What situation resulted from Paul and Barnabas teaching in Iconium?  
Acts 14:1 – 7
  - b. Why might God have intervened miraculously in that way at that time?
  - c. In what ways is the situation Paul and Barnabas faced in Iconium similar to situations Jesus faced during His ministry?  
Mark 3:1 – 8  
Luke 19:47 – 48

### Teaching God's Message in a New Way

It is not difficult to understand why Paul wanted to teach in Antioch of Pisidia. By taking God's message to Antioch, Paul could reach the most influential Jews and Gentiles of Galatia. But why did Paul go to Lystra, an out-of-the way town with fewer than a thousand people? What new experiences might God have had in mind for Paul in Lystra?

- 1 As Paul grew in his walk with Jesus and his understanding of the Hebrew Scriptures in light of Jesus, he made powerful connections with a variety of audiences that had never heard of Jesus.  
Acts 13:16 – 41
  - a. Where and to whom did Paul speak?
  - b. On what did he base his message? To what extent would his audience have known and believed what he was saying?
- 2 Paul spoke to a very different audience in Lystra. Acts 14:8 – 18
  - a. Generally, in what type of place does it appear Paul spoke?
  - b. As he spoke (and Scripture does not say what he said), what did Paul notice about one of his listeners. What did Paul do in response?
  - c. Miraculous healing usually communicates that supernatural power is at work. Did the people of Lystra get that message? How had Paul have to work to convince them it was *God's* divine power at work? To what extent was he successful?

### Paul Chooses a Disciple

During his second teaching tour, Paul and Silas left Antioch and began encouraging the disciples in the churches of Syria and Cilicia. While in Lystra, Paul met a young disciple named Timothy. From that point on Paul and Timothy's lives were knit together in the ministry of the gospel.

- 1 Describe Timothy.  
Acts 16:1 – 2  
1 Timothy 4:12  
2 Timothy 1:5 – 7  
2 Timothy 3:14 – 15
- 2 Where did Paul and Timothy minister together?  
Acts 20:1 – 4  
2 Corinthians 1:1  
Acts 18:1 – 5  
1 Thessalonians 1:1  
2 Thessalonians 1:1  
Philippians 1:14  
Colossians 1:1  
Philemon 1
  - a. What language does Paul use that says he thought of Timothy as his disciple? How did Timothy grow spiritually through his association with Paul?  
2 Corinthians 1:19  
2 Timothy 1:1 – 5  
2 Timothy 3:10 – 14
  - b. What traits of a passionate disciple did Paul encourage in Timothy? Was Paul a good example of these?  
1 Timothy 4:11 – 14  
1 Timothy 6:11  
2 Timothy 1:6  
2 Timothy 3:14 – 17

## Paul Makes Disciples

After completing his first and part of his second teaching tour, Paul changed the way he went about his ministry. He chose Timothy to accompany him and was like a rabbi to Timothy as he trained him in the faith.

- 1 Just as Lystra marked a turning point in Paul's ministry, Corinth marked a turning point as well.  
Acts 18:1 – 11
  - a. Who did Paul stay with in Corinth and why? Was Paul making disciples at this point?
  - b. What role did Timothy and Silas play in Paul's ministry?
  - c. How was Paul's ministry in Corinth just as it had always been? Who did he speak to first? Where? Why? What change did he make when opposition arose?
- 2 Just as Timothy was linked with Paul's life and ministry, Aquila and Priscilla had a long-term connection with Paul as well.  
Acts 18:18 – 28  
Romans 16:3 – 5  
1 Corinthians 16:19
  - a. What kind of relationship did Paul develop with Aquila and Priscilla in the year he spent with them?
  - b. Were Aquila and Priscilla part of the reason Paul felt he could leave Ephesus even when the Jews asked him to stay longer?
  - c. What indicates that Aquila and Priscilla continued to make disciples as Paul had taught them?

## Paul Chooses a Mamzer

Timothy was the most unlikely young man for Paul to choose as a disciple and colleague in Ministry. Paul was a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee. Paul was recognized as an outstanding student of Gamaliel. Timothy was a nobody who grew up in a small pagan wilderness town. Timothy was an uncircumcised *mamzer* who was unable to participate in Jewish community life at any level.

- 1 What did God command regarding the children of a forbidden marriage?  
Deuteronomy 23:2
- 2 What do we know about Timothy's family?  
Acts 16:1 – 3
- 3 What impact did the relationship between Timothy's mother and father have on Timothy within the Jewish community? Was it his fault?
- 4 Paul must have had a reason for choosing Timothy as a disciple. What might that reason have been?  
Acts 16:1 – 2  
2 Timothy 1:5  
2 Timothy 3:14 – 15

## References

Deuteronomy 17	Deuteronomy 23
1 Kings 4:25	Micah 4
Mark 3	Luke 19
John 15	Acts 6
Acts 9	Acts 13
Acts 14	Acts 16
Acts 17	Acts 18
Acts 19	Acts 20
Acts 21	Acts 23
Acts 26	Romans 1
Romans 15	Romans 16
1 Corinthians 1	1 Corinthians 4
1 Corinthians 7	1 Corinthians 9
1 Corinthians 11	1 Corinthians 16
2 Corinthians 1	Ephesians 6
Philippians 1	Philippians 2
Philippians 4	Colossians 1
1 Thessalonians 1	1 Thessalonians 2
1 Thessalonians 3	1 Thessalonians 4
2 Thessalonians 1	1 Timothy 1
1 Timothy 4	2 Timothy 1
2 Timothy 3	Titus 1
Philemon 1	Philemon 10
Hebrews 13	