

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for November 29, 2015**

**The Change of Plans**  
**Acts 16:6-10**

Acts 15:36-18:23 records Paul's second missionary journey which expanded the ministry to Greece.

**1. The voyage to Troas (16:6-8)**

Asia was a Roman province directly west of Lystra. The capital of the province of Asia was Ephesus, a city that Paul will visit toward the end of this second missionary journey (18:19) on his return from Greece and which will be the focus of the third missionary journey.

They were unable to visit the province of Bithynia for reasons that were not specified but others would soon arrive there with the gospel (1 Peter 1:1). A leading city in the province of Bithynia was Nicaea which would be the location for the first church council in history 275 years later, resulting in the Nicene Creed.

The wording of Acts 16:7 speaks of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Jesus (cf. Philippians 1:19; Romans 8:9). This verse testifies to the Holy Spirit proceeding from Christ. God the Father sent the Son (1 John 4:14) and the Holy Spirit (John 14:26); God the Son sent the Holy Spirit (John 16:7).

Paul did not stop and minister at Mysia which was a large region in northwest Asia Minor. Mysia included Mount Olympos which was considered to be the home of the Greek gods.

Troas was the furthest west Paul could go by land and was about 500 miles from where they set out from Lystra (Acts 16:1). Troas was a major port city on the Aegean Sea about ten miles south of the ancient city of Troy.

**2. The vision from God (16:9-10)**

Macedonia was a Roman province containing the northern half of ancient and modern Greece. It was home to the Philippians and the Thessalonians.

Lessons from this vision of God to Paul:

- a. Visions from God are not common.
- b. Visions from God are certain.

- c. Visions from God are clear.
- d. Visions from God are correct.
- e. Visions from God are compelling.
- f. Visions from God have ceased (1 Corinthians 13:8).

All Christians have a general call to preach the gospel to all (Mark 16:15). The location of our ministry is providentially guided by God through our faithfulness to the Scripture.

The response to the call of the Lord included Luke, as the pronoun “we” indicates that he joined Paul, Silas and Timothy in Troas. This is the first of three “we” sections of Acts (16:10-40; 20:5-21:18; 27:1-28:16).

Luke was the author of this book and a Gentile physician (Colossians 4:11, 14). By joining the ministry team, Luke had the opportunity to witness some of the events that he recorded in Acts and the journey allowed him time to use Paul and Silas as sources for Luke and Acts.

Paul was guided to Macedonia by God the Father (16:10), Jesus (16:7), and the Holy Spirit (16:6).

May we trust the Lord to guide us to the works that He has prepared for us (Ephesians 2:10).