



# Acts 16:1-5

Inconsistency and Hypocrisy or Compassion and Commitment?



# Timothy is chosen for mission assistance (16:1-2)

*<sup>1</sup> Paul 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.*

- Timothy came to faith during the first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas

*<sup>2</sup> He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium.*

- Timothy's reputation among believers in Lystra and Iconium is very good
- He is an active promoter of Christian fellowship and loving edification
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10
- Faithful followers of Jesus are to give prayerful thought to edification and look for opportunities to engage in encouraging biblical fellowship
  - Hebrews 10:24-25

## Timothy is circumcised for the cause of Christ (16:3)

*<sup>3</sup> Paul 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.*

- Timothy's focus and faithfulness is affirmed by Paul
  - Timothy is faithful in smaller things and will now be entrusted with larger things
  - Luke 16:10
- Timothy will be helpful for Jewish evangelism in the communities where they plan to travel
  - Paul is not being inconsistent with the decision made by the Jerusalem council that circumcision for Gentile is unnecessary for salvation
  - Having Timothy circumcised is not for the purpose of making him savable or more acceptable to God

# Timothy is circumcised for the cause of Christ (16:3)

- Because Timothy's mother is a Jew and his father is a Gentile, the Jews believe this condition makes Timothy an apostate to Judaism
- As an uncircumcised son of a Jewish mother, he will not be granted admittance to Jewish synagogues in the towns the missionaries plan to visit
- The motive for circumcising Timothy is not to obligate him to the Law of Moses or to trust in the Law to achieve righteousness
  - Galatians 5:1-6
- Circumcision and uncircumcision are irrelevant when trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation
  - Galatians 6:15
- Timothy is circumcised to open doors for Jewish evangelism
  - 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

## Timothy is circumcised for the cause of Christ (16:3)

- Paul quickly finds out how committed Timothy is to gospel ministry
- Many people do all they can to not violate their comfort zone
- Make no mistake, affirming the absolute authority of Jesus in all of life, and from that conviction speaking the truth is love, it is costly
- Jesus makes the cost of following Him very clear
  - Matthew 10:34-39
- Timothy willingly takes up his cross and follows Jesus

# Gospel truth encourages and empowers followers of Jesus to be faithful and fruitful (16:4-5)

*<sup>4</sup> As 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.*

- Understanding their motives as clarified above, Paul, Silas, and Timothy can go to primarily Gentile churches in the towns they visit and share the decision of the church in Jerusalem
- Circumcision and observing the Law of Moses is unnecessary for Gentiles

*<sup>5</sup> So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.*

- The people in the churches heard the confirmation of gospel truth from Jerusalem
- The news encourages them and strengthens their faith
- What happens because of their joy in saving grace?
  - They are emboldened to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with others
  - Boldness results in people being saved, baptized, and added to the membership of churches
    - Acts 4:29-31

# Questions to Consider

- How does the good news of forgiveness and righteousness provided for you through the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, strengthen your faith?
- Who are the people in your web of relationships that need the gospel hope you have in Jesus?
- Are you willing to pray specifically and obey unwaveringly?
- How does the Lord want YOU to take up your cross and follow Him?
- When you are around other believers, is it your prayerful intention to stir up others to love and good deeds and to be stirred up to love and good deeds?



# Acts 16:1-5

Inconsistency and Hypocrisy or Compassion and Commitment?

