

God's Road Signs

Acts 16:4-15

Sometimes we have the idea that once we find a place in ministry, it won't change. Acts 16 reminds us that Paul sought the Spirit's direction and changed his plans to align with that direction.

In Acts 16 we see that Paul intended to evangelize Western Asia Minor. But God had a different plan that would stretch Paul and his team to accomplish something they had not yet dreamed.

The question is, "How do we come to know and accept God's adjustments to our plans of service for Him?" In Paul's case, first, he viewed obstacles and opportunities to understand God's redirection. He knew what he was called to do. As hearers of God's word, we have a very clear, universal calling from the Lord. We are called to believe on the Lord Jesus and then to follow Him as growing disciples and witnesses. Everyone has that same, basic calling. But we will carry it out in different ways. Inevitably, obstacles will come. They may be a beginning of a grand new direction guided by God's hand on our lives.

Also, Paul was open to clear invitations. He had a vision of a man from Macedonia asking for help. The invitation fit his calling and sounded like God, so he went. God's going to speak to you in several, different ways. If it fits your calling to follow Christ and sounds like God, don't doubt or disqualify yourself. Accept invitations to serve. God will redirect as needed.

Finally, comfort was not Paul's guide. His calling was. Paul went to Philippi expecting that no comfortable Jewish synagogue would be there and it wasn't. But Lydia and the church that arose in that uncomfortable place became Paul's staunchest supporting church.

When we make peace with the fact that we are on a journey of perpetual change with God, then we can move in close to Him and trust His directions via obstacles, invitations. Remember, when you do face change, our God is unchanging. His constant love and grace are sufficient to be our one steady hope.