

# Three Amigos of Macedonia

## Session Twelve

We are in the midst of Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey, AD 50-54. Paul is accompanied by Silas and Timothy.

"You've got mail!" The earliest of Paul's thirteen New Testament epistles (letters) comes from his 2<sup>nd</sup> MJ. It was written in Athens in AD 52. Which was Paul's likely first epistle?

- a) Romans
- b) 2 Thessalonians
- c) Philippians
- d) 1 Hesiations

### Acts 16:6-10

The Spirit of Jesus prevents them from going to Bithynia. Instead Paul sees a vision of a man pleading for him to come where?

Life application: Sometimes God's "no" is not alone, but followed by "I have a better idea."

Textual note: In v. 10 is where "we" is used, indicating Luke has now joined the group. "We" will end in 16:17 and begin again in 20:5.

### Acts 16:11-15

The three principal cities of Macedonia are Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea.

Want to establish a synagogue? You'll need a quorum of \_\_\_\_\_ men, FYI.

Meet the business woman Lydia (also the name of a nearby region) in Philippi. What's her story? Why would she be a great candidate for LWML?

### Acts 16:16-40

The fortune-telling slave girl had an evil spirit—a python spirit. "The python was a mythical snake worshiped at Delphi and associated with the oracle. The term 'python' came to be used of the persons through whom the python spirit supposedly spoke" (CSSB footnote v. 16).

"When Paul exorcized the spirit that possessed her, he exorcized their source of income as well" (265).

Describe the security precautions taken with Paul and Silas in jail.

Their song in v. 24 must have been jailhouse rock! What would normally be a jail break becomes a powerful witness for the jailer and his whole family.

Look at the reciprocity of washing. The jailer washes their wounds. Paul washes the jailer's sins away through baptism.

“The citizen had only to say *civis Romanum sum* ('I am a Roman citizen') and he would be immune to punishment; heavy penalties were prescribed for those who violated these citizenship privileges” (268).

Look at how the gospel works. “It would be hard to imagine a more disparate group than the business woman, the slave girl and the jailer. Racially, socially and psychologically they were worlds apart. Yet all three were changed by the same gospel and were welcomed into the same church” (268).

	business woman	slave girl	jailer
national origin			
social background			
personal need			

“The head of a Jewish household would use the same prayer every morning, giving thanks to God that God had not made him a Gentile, a woman or a slave. But here were representatives of these three despised categories redeemed and united in Christ” (269). See Galatians 3:28!

#### Acts 17:1-9

Paul & Co. likely stayed in Thessalonica, the capital of the province of Macedonia, for several months. See introductions to both 2 and 1 Thessalonians. Homework: read these letters for context of Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey!

“Blasphemy was the greatest accusation for a Jew, but treason—to support a rival king above Caesar—was the worst accusation for a Roman” (CSSB footnote v. 7).

#### Acts 17:10-15

What are the positive attributes of the Bereans?