

## LESSON 28

# Second Missionary Journey of Paul

- Objective** : To fulfil our responsibility to preach gospel in Jerusalem, Judea and to the uttermost part of the world by avoiding all obstacles.
- Bible Portion** : Acts 15:16
- Memory Verse** : Acts 26:19, 20

“Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.

### Introduction:

Paul started his second missionary journey just after the first Jerusalem council. So gospel reached Europe. Paul began writing epistle during this time. We should understand the chief places and events in the journey, and also the epistles wrote then.

15th chapter of Acts deal the first church council at Jerusalem. The council was held by apostles, elders, and the entire church in taking decision on circumcising the gentiles coming to faith. The meeting was historic in concluding the fact that the freedom of gospel is important and it is by faith one is saved, not because of circumcision and the custom of law. Paul was very happy at this (Gal. 2:1-10). It stood as a basis of second missionary journey of Paul.

Paul and his companions reached Antioch just after the council and started the journey.

## **Second Missionary Journey (Act 15:35-40)**

What was the reason of disagreement of Paul with Bernabas who had been with Paul for last ten years ? What is the relationship between Bernabas and Mark ? What was more convenient; Paul's strictness or Bernabas liberal attitude?

Mark, who was not useful became a good companion of Paul (Col.4:10, 2 Tim. 4:11). Bernabas with Mark went to Cupress, his native place. Paul with Silas visited the old mission fields.

### **Timothy (16:1-5)**

When Paul took time in visiting old mission fields of first missionary journey he saw the young disciples in the form of Timothy who had been hailed from Lystra where Paul faced severe persecution. Timothy became a good disciples and co-worker of Paul. Why Paul permitted Timothy undergo through circumcision? Timothy's father was a Greek. So he was not circumcised. In order to make him acceptable in the house and synagogues of Jesus, Paul permitted him to do so. We can also read about his mother and grandmother (2 Tim. 1:5).

### **Newly visited Places**

#### **A. Galatia in Asia - Minor**

During the work, the churches were established in Galatia, one of the provinces in Asia-Minor. Paul had to stay at Galatia due to physical problems. Learn from the epistle to Galatians about how was Paul invited there and also about the success of his ministry (Gal.4:12-15, 3:15, 1,2) which were the places that the holy spirit—did not permit Paul to visit ? (Act 16:6,7). But God strengthened him to minister Lord in Asia much during his 3rd missionary journey. God used him mightily in the European continent where more doors of gospel were opened in this time.

#### **Macedonian Call**

Troas was a historical place situated at the north-west of Asian continent. They reached Troas by travelling on Road for 900 miles from Galatia. The coast of Europe can be seen from here. Paul received Macedonian call here. (Calling of Paul, an Asian, from Europe by a Macedonian).

## **Luke joins the journey**

See the phrase “we” in Acts 16:10 Luke, the author of the gospel of Luke and Acts of Apostles joined Paul, Silas and Timothy at Troas.

## **B. Macedonian Province in Europe**

### **1. Philippi**

Paul reached Macedonia for missionary activities. It is famous as the native place of Great Alexander. The city was built by King Philip, the father of Alexander. It was a Roman Colony. The city did not occupy a Jewish synagogue because there was not much Jews present there. But some pious Jews took time together beside the river on Sabbath days.

### **Lydia - first believer in Europe (16:11-15)**

Lydia belonged to Thyatira in Asian province and she was a dealer of purple cloth at Philippi. She was the first convert in Europe. First meeting of Paul was a gathering of women.

### **Lydia's Repentance**

The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. She and her household members accepted the word and declared their position by taking water baptism. She opened her house for Lord and his servants. The first church gathering in Europe was conducted here (16:40).

### **Healing of Demon possessed Slave Girl**

There was a slave girl who earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. What is her testimony of Paul (16:17). Why her owner became angry?

### **Muting in city**

What was the charge raised against Paul and Silas? What was the reason behind the muting (16:19). Paul and Silas were severely persecuted.

## **Paul and Silas in prison**

Why they had been guarded in the inner cell of the jail? The people of the city believed that Paul and Silas were extra ordinary men. They watched them early drawing out demon from the sorcessor.

## **Prayer and Singing hymns to God at midnight**

Paul and Silas had been put into the inner cell of the Jail by fastening their feet in the stocks and their bodies were full of wounds. But they praised by singing hymns to God. Why did they sing (Act 5:4, Mt. 5:11, 12) prisoners were listening to them.

## **Earthquake in the prison**

Suddenly there was a violent earthquake. It was a different experience. The foundations of the prisons were shaken. All the doors flew open and chains of all prisoners loose. But prisoners did not move from their cells.

## **Jailor about to kill himself**

Why jailor was deciding to kill himself after working up suddenly? There was a loving word from inner cell- Don't harm yourself. God doesn't want anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9, Jn. 10:10)

What must I do to get saved?

With the help of lights, the jailor rushed into the cell and met Paul and Silas. His question is the question of entire humanity. God has the answer. Believe in the Lord Jesus. You and your household will be saved. Paul spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all others in his house. Immediately he and his family members baptized. Paul and Silas were invited to the jailor's house and a meal was set before them (Act. 16:34).

## **Joy in the whole family**

If Paul did not speak the word, what would be the experience of the jailor ?

## **Roman Citizen**

By realizing the extra ordinary event, the magistrates forced to release Paul and Silas. Paul raised his Roman citizenship here. The magistrate of Philippi, a Roman colony, understood the seriousness of the matter. The officers came to appear them because their stay in the city would endanger them. The people who were praying at Lydia's house became happy (16:10).

## **The church at Philippi**

See how the Philippian church arose from persecution became a comfort for Paul in later years (Phili. 4:10-20). The church started growing with the jailor's repentance. Luke stayed here and served them (see the phrase "they" in Act 17:1). Many years later, a letter was written by Paul at Roman prison. It came to be known as the epistle to Philippians. The phrase "happiness" is used many times in the epistles; why ? Note : Lydia, Jailor and the members of this household were baptized. The family includes infants also. Some argue that the infants were also baptized. The word of the Lord has been spoken to the entire family. He and his family were baptized and filled with joy (16:32-34). Through these phrases we can understand that the people got baptized after they listening to the word of God. Apostles and the early church did not baptize infants. Baptism was for the mature ones who believed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## **Questions**

1. Is there any connection of second missionary journey with Jerusalem council ?
2. Explain the emphasis and significance of second missionary journey ?
3. What is known as "Macedonian Call"?
4. Why was Paul persecuted in Philippi?
5. Why Paul has a close relationship with Philippian church ?

