



Life Group Sermon Study Notes

“Let’s Talk: Our Call”

Ps. James Lowe – March 1, 2020

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- In your opinion, what decade had the best music?
- What would your perfect day look like?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Acts 16: 1-9 (ESV)

Paul^[a] 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. ² He was well spoken of by the brothers^[b] at Lystra and Iconium. ³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily. ⁶ And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷ And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸ So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ And when Paul^[c] had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

The context above is not the first time that Paul went to Derbe and Lystra to spread the Gospel. The first time was with Barnabas when Paul healed a lame man. The citizens of Lystra equated the healing to Paul and Barnabas being Greek gods; so, they offered sacrifices to them. Paul and Barnabas pleaded with the people that they were only men, just like them.

Furthermore, some Jews hostile to the Gospel won the crowd over and ended up stoning Paul nearly to death. In our text, Paul was returning to the very place where he was stoned, but without his co-laborer Barnabas. Paul and Barnabas had separated over a disagreement regarding allowing John Mark to come with them on the second trip to Lystra and surrounding cities. Although, their relationship reached a breach it didn't stop Paul or Barnabas from engaging in their call to spread the gospel.

Paul goes back to the place where he experienced severe physical pain for the sake of the gospel. There he meets Timothy who had favor with the people in Lystra. Timothy showed his willingness to serve alongside Paul by going through the painful process of circumcision, even though his father was Greek, making it not a requirement. Timothy accepted that being with Paul meant not unnecessarily offending the Jews. Timothy also had favor in the city of Lystra. This connection proved to be divine as the churches were strengthened in their faith. We learn from Paul that even when divine relationships have a breach, we can trust God to move forward in our calling. God will send the relationships that we need to continue in what he has called us to do. Paul didn't let physical pain justify him not going back to strengthen the very people who stoned him. Neither did relationship disappointments stop him from developing trust with his new co-laborer, Timothy.

Paul and Timothy continued to go to various cities. The Holy Spirit prevented him from speaking in Asia. Through a vision from God, Paul concludes that they are to go to Macedonia.

With the new partnership God called Paul to different cities that Paul didn't originally intend to visit. We learn that though we have our thoughts of what our calling will look like, we must trust God to order our steps. God might bring in new relationships and with that often comes new assignments. As we don't get to determine our parents may we trust God to connect us with various people – who may come and go – as we fulfill what we have been called to do.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- What do you feel that God has called you to do as work in His Kingdom?
- How open are you to the Holy Spirit rerouting your well-intended plans?
- What relationships do you have, or need to have, to accomplish God's calling on your life?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.

- Thank God for the Gospel that is the answer to the needs of humanity.
- Ask God for a vision and compassion of to serve others.
- Ask God to reveal those you are to co-labor with in sharing the Gospel.