



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Acts 13 – 26 Sermon Series

Supports Session 5: Kingdom Work

Sermon Title: “The World is Calling” (Acts 16:6-10)

### Connection to Session 5

A believer should listen for God to speak, follow His leading, and obey Him for God’s glory in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Introduction/Opening

In February 2024, the lunar spacecraft *Odysseus* made its landing on the lunar surface within a mile or so of its intended target. There was one problem: the lander came in too fast and caught one foot on the surface, causing the craft to fall on its side. While the mission wasn’t a complete disaster, it was greatly impacted. Antennas and solar panels designed to extend above the spacecraft were covered up instead by the body of the ship. As a result, the lander could not fully communicate with earth. Within weeks, *Odysseus* had no power, no communication, and no ability to fulfill its mission.<sup>1</sup>

Today, we are on mission. That mission is clear: to make disciples of all people. God uses His church, which is all of us, to carry out that mission to the world. But how do we live and work in that mission? Paul gives us a wonderful example that we can learn from.

### Outline

#### 1. The World is Calling: Be Sensitive to God’s Leading (Acts 16:6-10)

- a. Paul heard God speak in a variety of ways
  - i. He was forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak in Asia. (v. 6)
  - ii. He was prevented by the Spirit from going to Bithynia. (v. 7)
  - iii. He had a vision from God of a man pleading with him to go to Macedonia. (v. 9)
- b. Today, how do we know when God is speaking?
  - i. He speaks through His Word.
    1. The *Baptist Faith and Message* says this about the Scriptures: “The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God’s revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction.”<sup>2</sup>
    2. Romans 15:4

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/florida/articles/2024-02-26/sideways-moon-landing-cuts-mission-short-private-lunar-lander-expected-to-cease-operations-tuesday>

<sup>2</sup> <https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000/#i>

3. 2 Timothy 3:15-17
  4. 2 Peter 1:19-21
  - ii. He speaks through prayer (and confirmed this by His Word)
    1. Psalm 65:5
    2. Psalm 86:6-7
- 2. The World is Calling: Adjust and Obey (Acts 16:6-10)**
- a. In every movement of God, Paul adjusted his plans.
    - i. Paul journeyed through Phrygia and Galatia. He did not go into Bithynia, but he did travel to Troas.
    - ii. Psalm 33:11
    - iii. Proverbs 16:9
  - b. God saves people to serve.
    - i. Matthew 28:19-20
    - ii. Ephesians 2:10
    - iii. Colossians 1:10
  - c. This means that you need to adjust:
    - i. How you spend your time, and
    - ii. How you serve Jesus.

## Conclusion

It's a very simple set of principles: listen to God and adjust your life to fully obey Him. And why should we? We live in a world of eight billion people and counting, and many have not yet heard the gospel. In other words, a great many people, if they perished today, will perish without Jesus. To reach more people, it will take a commitment to adjust personal agendas and priorities on the part of many Christians for the sake of the gospel.

Your commission is clear. Your task is obvious. Be willing to change your plans, your priorities, and your life to reach one more person with the gospel of Jesus Christ. As we see in this text, Paul adjusted as God led and the world was changed forever. How about you? What can you do to change the world?

*Dr. Fran Trascritti (PhD, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) serves as the Lead Pastor of Beacon Church, a revitalization work taking place in the West Side of Cincinnati, Ohio. He has almost thirty years of ministry experience in churches and denominational service. Fran and his wife, Teresa, live in Cincinnati, where they enjoy time with their kids and awesome thirteen grandkids.*

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