



Acts 16

Jeremiah 29:11

Paul knew what his ultimate mission in life was.

Romans 8:28 NLT And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.

We cannot let detours hinder our devotion to God.

We cannot let detours to stop us from talking about Jesus.

Because of the detour God placed in Paul's life, Paul and Silas were able to reach new people.

We need to allow God's detours in our life, to open new doors of opportunities.

How will you let detours affect you?

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Another Detour?

Acts 16

Sept 12, 2021

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Acts 16:6-7 NLT Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time. ⁷ Then coming to the

borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there.

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Jeremiah 29:11 NLT For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

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Acts 16:9–10 NLT That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us!”¹⁰ So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.

Paul knew what his ultimate mission in life was.

Acts 16:11–15 NLT We boarded a boat at Troas and sailed straight across to the island of Samothrace, and the next day we landed at Neapolis.¹² From there we reached Philippi, a major city of that district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. And we stayed there several days.¹³ On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there.¹⁴ One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying.¹⁵ She and her household were baptized, and she asked us to be her guests. “If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my home.” And she urged us until we agreed.

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What are we going to do when the “detour” sign is in our face?

Romans 8:28 NLT And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.

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Acts 16:16-18 NLT One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit that enabled her to tell the future. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling fortunes.¹⁷ She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved.”¹⁸ This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And instantly it left her.

Acts 16:19-24 NLT Her masters’ hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace.²⁰ “The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews!” they shouted to the city officials.²¹ “They are teaching customs that are illegal for us Romans to practice.”²² A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods.²³ They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn’t escape.²⁴ So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.

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Acts 16:25-28 NLT Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. ²⁶ Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! ²⁷ The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. ²⁸ But Paul shouted to him, “Stop! Don’t kill yourself! We are all here!”

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We cannot let detours hinder our devotion to God.

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Acts 16:29-30 NLT The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

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Acts 16:31-34 NLT They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.” ³² And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. ³³ Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. ³⁴ He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.

We cannot let detours to stop us from talking about Jesus.

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