

## “Vision”

Acts 16

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“These men . . . have turned the world upside down . . .” Acts 17:6 (English Standard Version)

Paul’s example models for us what it looks like to be fully engaged with the life and mission of Jesus.

Example #1: **WE ARE TO LISTEN FOR GOD’S VISION AND ACT ON IT.**

*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.”<sup>10</sup> And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.* Acts 16:9-10 (ESV)

Vision = a picture of the immediate future

### The Lighthouse Vision

- To raise the level of risk as we extend a gospel presence to people far from God.
- To make unprecedented space for God so that He becomes not a part of lives, but the center.

Example #2: **WE ARE TO GO WHERE PEOPLE ARE TO BE A GOSPEL PRESENCE.**

*So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis,<sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days.* Acts 16:11-12 (ESV)

*And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.<sup>14</sup> One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.<sup>15</sup> And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.* Acts 16:13-15 (ESV)

**Example #3: WE ARE TO KEEP OUR EYES OPEN FOR THE BROKENNESS AROUND US.**

*As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling . . . <sup>18</sup>Paul . . . turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. Acts 16:16, 18b (ESV)*

**Example #4: WE DON'T GIVE UP WHEN THINGS DON'T WORK OUT; INSTEAD, WE STAY ALERT FOR OTHER OPPORTUNITIES.**

See Acts 16:16-33 (partial below).

*About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, <sup>26</sup>and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. <sup>27</sup>When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup>But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup>And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup>Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup>And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup>And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup>And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Acts 16:24-32 (ESV)*