

**NAVIGATING TOWARD OUR DESTINY - Part IX**  
**Navigating the Detours of Life**  
**Text: Acts16: 1-10**

**Key Word:** Detours

**Key Thought:** How to Successfully Navigate Through the Detours of Life

\*\*\* I love getting into our car and traveling down the road and especially during holidays. We don't need to have a self-driving car. In fact, we are looking forward to our holidays and our drive to Virginia in a few weeks. Our chauffeur will once again be Harold Snow.

The planning is just as exciting at the first day of traveling. We ask God to guide our journeys, keep us safe and bring us into contact with the people He wants us to meet. So then the changes in scenery and our schedule are not always the major factor of having a holiday.

The scenery is great though UNTIL that one inevitable situation happens. You know what I mean - A DETOUR. Even though GPS systems are making it better to prepare and perhaps avoid them, no one ever has a 100% success of averting them. I'm convinced few of us ever say "Thank you Lord for this delay in our journey." Instead, we find our blood pressure increases and we feel our anxiety growing. \*\*\*

\*\*\* The most memorable detour happened to us the day Melissa was born. We were living in Edmonton in 1982 and it was about one month before beginning my second year of Bible College. I wasn't familiar with the downtown area because the North Saskatchewan River wound through the core making the streets anything but consistent. So I chose to mark out a map a few weeks before and drove the route so I was absolutely sure of how long it would take from our apartment to the hospital.

The day arrived and Sharon informed me "We need to get to the hospital NOW." The doctor had told us not to be more than ½ hour from the hospital. I planned it to a "T." We sailed through the streets until we entered the downtown core and came across A DETOUR. This was not a simple detour. This was a detour around the winding river. Mr. "Got -it-all-together" was unraveling. Sharon knew my nature didn't adjust well at that period of my life to changes. Talk about frustration! \*\*\*

**I. DO THEY KEEP US FROM HURTFUL EVENTS? (Acts 13:46)**

**II. I. DO THEY PROTECT US FROM HARMFUL EVENTS? (Acts 14:19-20)**

**III. DO THEY GUIDE US TOWARD HELPFUL EVENTS? (Acts 16:1-10)**

**What Should We Do When We Come upon a Detour in Our Journey of Life? We All must Realize That They Serve a Purpose That Doesn't Seem Clear at the Beginning.**

**I. DO THEY KEEP US FROM HURTFUL EVENTS? (Acts 13:46)**

The apostle Paul and Barnabas were clearly set aside in Antioch by prophets and teachers who were clearly led the Holy Spirit during a time of worship and fasting to accomplish a great work for God. This has been called their First Missionary Journey.

*“The Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’”*

*Acts 13:2*

So we may wonder why it didn't take long for obstructions to come their way. John Mark as an immature Christian helper left them. They also faced the opposition of a sorcerer who was trying to hinder the gospel from being preached. Paul stood against him and caused him to be blinded. He was blind spiritually and now was blinded physically which enlightened the Roman proconsul and Sergius Paulus became a believer in Christ.

This made Paul even more bold as he gave them a Jewish history lesson. This riled up the Jews to the point that they abusively spoke against Paul and Barnabas. As their hurtful words continued, Paul finally had enough of the backlash and began to Navigate a Major Detour in ministry. The change in direction was going to fulfill God's will through him.

*“Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly:  
‘We had to speak the word of God to you (the Jews) first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.  
47. For this is what the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’”*

*Acts 13:46,47*

Accepting the detours of life doesn't mean we will never have hurts that continue to plague us. The Gentiles felt glad and honoured while the Jews incited hatred. Have you faced a time when you know you are in the will of God and yet feel hurt over and over again? Even though Paul and Barnabas shook the dust from their feet they also were filled with joy. Rejection is definitely a hurtful event but the apostles faced further and more intense opposition.

## II. I. DO THEY PROTECT US FROM HARMFUL EVENTS? (Acts 14:19-20)

It wasn't just hurtful - it also became harmful. We are witnessing this same type of aggression taking place world wide against Christianity.

As the apostles continued their missionary journey into Asia Minor they experienced a roller coaster of situations. As the number of Jews and Gentiles became believers in Christ so did the opposition. The power of God intensified to overcome the pagan authority in the area. One great miracle took place in Lystra were a man who had been crippled from birth stood up and began to walk.

The crowd responded in a way that showed they were guided by the pagan teaching that encompassed the area. They wanted to offer sacrifices as part of their worship of Zeus. The devil has no problem when God's people simply add false teaching to their beliefs. Yet it doesn't take long when we stand for truth that we see the real hearts being exposed.

*"We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them."*

*Acts 14:15*

The gospel is clearly defined and can never be modified. No one can live a lie and the truth at the same time. There is no middle ground in idolatrous vanity. God doesn't share His eternal throne with anyone. His creation is His alone. Only He is worthy to be praised, worshiped, thanked and adored. The best way to know what a person is guided by is to tell them something they don't want to hear. Tell them "No" and then watch the fireworks.

*"Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. 20. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe."*

*Acts 14:19,20*

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## II. I. DO THEY PROTECT US FROM HARMFUL EVENTS? (Acts 14:19-20 (Contd.))

“Bad people will often travel further to do evil than good people will to do good; and wicked people often show more zeal in opposing the gospel than professed Christians do in advancing it.”

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There will always be instability and uselessness following the “progressive, liberal movements.” They are robustly ready to worship you one moment and then are quickly turning to destroy you. There is no common sense in their futile belief systems.

So if God didn't place a major detour in the apostles lives to keep them from hurt or harm, then what are we missing?

## III. DO THEY GUIDE US TOWARD HELPFUL EVENTS? (Acts 16:1-10)

After returning to Antioch and then attending the Jerusalem Council, Paul and Silas set out for the Second Missionary Journey. This time they headed from Antioch through the interior to revisit the church in Derbe, Lystra and Iconium. Then they headed northwest through Phrygia and Galatia. They were prepared to head East into Bithynia and Pontus.

*“Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.*

*7. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.”*

*Acts 16:6,7*

*“During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”*

*10. After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”*

*Acts 16:9,10*

### III. DO THEY GUIDE US TOWARD HELPFUL EVENTS? (Acts 16:1-10)

This can be easily described as a Godly Detour. It wasn't that things were beginning to happen - it was rather that they were continuing to happen. God's guidance leaves no regret.

*"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.  
24. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand."*

*Psalm 37:23,24 KJV*

Were there any helpful events that the Lord ordered for them to witness?

1. Salvation for Lydia and her household (Acts 16:14,15)
2. Casting out the evil spirit in the slave girl (Acts 16:18)
3. Salvation of the Jailer and his household (Acts 16:34)

The next few chapters reveal once again that many people (both Jews and Greeks - Acts 17:4) accepted the Lord as their Saviour. We read that even Crispus, a synagogue ruler and his family accepted the Lord (Acts 18:8). The greatest help we can offer to anyone is leading them in salvation so they understand what they've done and the new direction they are heading.

\*\*\* The story is told of a young girl who accepted Christ as her Saviour and applied for membership in a local church. *"Were you a sinner before you received the Lord Jesus into your life?"* inquired an old deacon.

*"Yes, sir,"* she replied.

*"Well, are you still a sinner?"*

*"To tell you the truth, I feel I'm a greater sinner than ever."*

*"Then what real change have you experienced?"*

*"I don't quite know how to explain it,"* she said, *"except I used to be a sinner **running after sin**, but now that I am saved. I'm a sinner **running from sin!**"* she was received into the fellowship of the church, and she proved by her consistent life that she was truly converted. \*\*\*

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Date: Sept 9/18

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: My Saviour's Love (I Stand Amazed) - F

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