

**Sunday, November 11, 2007**  
**The Five Forty Five**  
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**Acts 16:6-10**

**Acts 16:6-10** 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. <sup>7</sup> When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. <sup>8</sup> So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> 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.

NOTES:

Paul's relationship with the Philippians Church is one of deep love and is started here in Chapter 16. His first visit, brought about by a vision of a Macedonian man beseeching their help, was rich with God's blessing. We find Paul and Silas so confident in their mission to "Help" the Macedonian man that they were singing hymns and songs of praise after being beaten and thrown in jail (Acts 16:22-25). Paul and Silas's attitude reflects their perseverance because of their belief in what God was doing through them. With God's work is larger than themselves, their circumstance becomes a moot point. With attentive hearts Paul and Silas go on to have a great ministry there in Philippi. It's because of their confidence in God's plan or their life that they are able to persevere through their hardships.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. Paul and his companions *acted* on a call Paul had through a vision. It's fair that we all aren't going to be given the "Burning Bush Experience" from God. How do you think God has called you in the past? Do you think he's called you at all?
2. God's plan for Paul and his companions led them into a dangerous place. Philippi was a Roman occupied province in Macedonia. The Jewish population was small there and what he came to say and do was clearly not welcomed. When in your life have you found yourself going somewhere you weren't welcomed? Why did you go?
3. Humiliated, beaten and shackled to a jail wall we find Paul and Silas singing hymns and songs of praise. Their perseverance comes from the knowledge that God is doing something bigger than themselves. Have you ever felt like you were apart of something bigger than yourself? What was it?
4. Paul was committed to God's plan for his life. He knew God would use his experience and knowledge for a larger purpose. What can we learn from Paul's commitment when we think about our own lives?