“Open Hearts and Mouths,” Acts 16:6-15
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The Goal: Being about The Lord’s Business calls for us to reach out and invite; to have hearts that are OPEN to the needs of others to where we OPEN our mouths to share with them the good news of Jesus Christ.

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

The Problem: Although we ourselves are recipients of God’s amazing grace, at times our hearts are not OPEN to the prompting of the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:7,10). As a result, rather than share the message of God’s grace with those in need of it, our mouths remain CLOSED.

The Solution: Having OPENed our hearts to the good news of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit OPENs our hearts to see the needs of those who do not know Jesus and to thereby OPEN our mouths to share the good news of Jesus with them.

Practical Application: By God’s grace, I plan to...
OPEN: Who is someone who would point to you as having played a significant role in their coming to faith in Jesus?

DIG: Acts 16:6-15

1. Who was behind the CLOSED doors that prevented Paul and his missionary team from pursuing ministry...
   a. ...to the west (the province of Asia)? (Acts 16:6)
   b. ...to the north (the province of Bithynia)? (Acts 16:7)

2. What takes place next that explains why they experienced these CLOSED doors? (Acts 16:9)

3. To what extent was Paul’s heart OPEN to this ministry opportunity within the continent of Europe? (Acts 16:10)


5. As Paul OPENED his heart and his mouth about Jesus, what did the Lord OPEN? (Acts 16:14)

6. What else reveals how Lydia’s heart was OPENED to the Good News of Jesus? (Acts 16:15)

REFLECT

1. The Holy Spirit often guides as much by the closing of doors as he does by the opening of doors. What insight does this provide you concerning your own faith walk?

2. Who are some of the “Macedonian people” in your life who need to hear about Jesus? (e.g., Neighbors, Co-Workers, Classmates, Social Friendships, Family)

3. Why should we have a heartfelt concern for those who do not have a saving relationship with Jesus?

4. According to Paul (Romans 10:14), what is it going to take? More specifically, what is it going to take from you?

5. Personal Challenge: Pray.
   a. Pray for those in your life who do not know Jesus as Savior that their hearts would be OPENED.
   b. Pray that God would OPEN your heart with concern and passion for their eternal well-being.
   c. Pray that God would OPEN doors of opportunity for you to OPEN your heart up to them.
   d. Pray that God would OPEN your mouth to share your heart about trusting in Jesus as Savior and Lord.