



Dead Ends (Acts 16)

**VINTAGE US, PART 3**

Ed Noble, Lead Pastor  
September 16 & 18, 2011

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**VINTAGE US** — People *led by God* into one world-changing adventure after another. Put another way, our relationship with Jesus is by nature *HIGHLY INTERACTIVE*.

**ACTS 16** — EVEN PEOPLE LED BY GOD *HIT DEAD ENDS...*

"stuck...baffled...lost...unsure...nothing seems to be working..."

<sup>1</sup> Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, <sup>2</sup> and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium. <sup>3</sup> Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

1. PREPARE (concretely and specifically) to be used by God.

<sup>6</sup> They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; <sup>7</sup> and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; <sup>8</sup> and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

2. REFUSE TO PRESUME.

- *Wait, inquire, listen!*
- Notice: an utter lack of *blaming* or *despairing*.

<sup>9</sup> A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. <sup>11</sup> So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony; and we were staying in this city for some days.

3. LEARN TO BE LED.

- Tip: be open to God speaking to you in *all different ways*.

<sup>25</sup> But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

4. DECIDE NOW: My life is about *purpose* not *pleasure*, cause not *comfort*, the Kingdom of God not the *Kingdom of me!*

- Learning: I must *decouple* my *circumstances* from God's *love* for me.

**WHILE YOU ARE WAITING**...the BETTER not BITTER PRINCIPLE.

**A CLASSIC QUESTION RAISED IN THIS STORY:**

Q: "What must I do to be saved?"

A: "The Chair"



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\_\_\_\_\_...“stuck...baffled...lost...unsure...nothing seems to be working...”

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1. \_\_\_\_\_ (concretely and specifically) to be used by God.

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2. REFUSE TO \_\_\_\_\_.

- \_\_\_\_\_!
- Notice: an utter lack of \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

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3. \_\_\_\_\_ TO BE \_\_\_\_\_.

- Tip: be open to God speaking to you in \_\_\_\_\_.

*<sup>25</sup> But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.*

4. DECIDE NOW: My life is about \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_, cause not \_\_\_\_\_, the Kingdom of God not the \_\_\_\_\_!

- Learning: I must \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ from God’s \_\_\_\_\_ for me.

**WHILE YOU ARE WAITING**...the \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ PRINCIPLE.

**A CLASSIC QUESTION RAISED IN THIS STORY:**

Q: “ \_\_\_\_\_ ?”

A: “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”