Week 4:

One Decision Away

Glorious Ruin

Questions

1. What makes it difficult for you to follow God when His plan does not unfold the way you expected?
2. Read Acts 16:6-10. Have you ever felt God closing one door or redirecting you toward something you didn't expect? What did that experience teach you about trusting Him?
3. Read Acts 16:22–26. Think of one current issue in your life, which is receiving more of your attention—your issue or God's presence in that circumstance?
4. Where is God asking you to keep obeying Him, even when it's hard? What helps you stay close to Him?
5. Read Acts 16:30-31. Share a time when you have seen one person's decision to follow Jesus have an impact far beyond that individual.
6. How has your decision to follow Jesus changed your own personal story?
7. How does your faith in Jesus change how you relate to your family, your school or workplace, and your community at large?

Scripture References

Romans 1:16a
"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes"

Acts 16:30-31
30 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

Acts 16:33-34
33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

Acts 16:6-15
6 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. 8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. 9 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.

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11 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on
to Neapolis. **12** From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that
district[a] of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of
prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. **14** One of those
listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a
worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. **15** When she and the
members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a
believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

Romans 5:8
But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Takeaways

- How does the power of Jesus actually enter your life story and change your life story for the better?
- One decision for Jesus can change your story, your city, your continent.
- What can you do when you're tempted to give up?
- 3 Kinds of Difficulty Paul Faced and We'll Face
    - Conflict with the people we trusted most (Acts 15:36-40)
    - Opposition and persecution (Acts 13:50, Acts 16:19-24)
    - God's path being unpredictable and not a straight line, even when seeking to obey (Acts 16: 6-10)
- Your grit to keep choosing Jesus, even when you don't feel it, even when you're frustrated and confused….this could make all the difference for an entire family, city, or continent.
- Belief expressed in obedience connects you to the power and promises of Almighty God.
- As a Christ follower, choose to seek His voice and obey Him, even when the journey is difficult or feels impossible.
- If you're not certain of your salvation, choose Christ, like Lydia and like the Philippian jailer.

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