

Divine Encounters!

- **Meaning of “Divine”** – God, of God, provided by God, proceeding from God. “Sovereign encounters by God’s providence”
- **What is the purpose of “divine encounters?”** “Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; *so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ*, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 4:11)
- **Who benefits from such “divine encounters?”** “And we know that God causes *all things to work together for good to those who love God*, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

I) Reflections on “Divine Encounters” from Acts 16!

Reflection questions to ask! 1) What happened? 2) Who responded to love God? 3) How was God glorified?

A) **Paul, Silas, and Timothy in Lystra!**

- “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,² and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium.³ 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.” (Acts 16:1-3)

**Apostle Paul's
Second Missionary Journey
49-52 A.D.**



I) Reflections on “Divine Encounters” from Acts 16!

Reflection questions to ask! 1) What happened? 2) Who responded to love God? 3) How was God glorified?

A) Paul and Timothy in Lystra!

- “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,² and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium.³ 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.” (Acts 16:1-3)

B) Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Lydia in Philippi!

- “A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. ¹⁵ And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.” (Acts 16:14-15)

C) Paul, Silas, and the Jailer!

- “They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household. ³⁴ And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.” (Acts 16:31-34)

II) Some Applications!

A) **In every sovereign/divine encounter, always respond to the Spirit!**

- “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.”¹⁰ 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.” (Acts 16:9-10)

B) **In jail time/hardships, do the loving thing out of love for God!**

- “When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.²⁸ But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!” (Acts 16:25-28)

C) Pray for a Timothy, Lydia, or a humble Jailer!

- “For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.” (2 Timothy 1:5)
- “For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. ²² But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father.” (Philippians 2:20-22)
- “A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. ¹⁵ And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.” (Acts 16:14-15)