Date: 2nd January 2022  
Passage: Acts 16:6-15  
Preacher: Andy Bruins

**Sermon Summary**

Paul and his small team of missionaries now move on from their tour of encouragement in southern Turkey with a desire to take the gospel into new territories. They want to carry on the work in the province of Asia, but God has other plans and they eventually end up in Northern Greece, in the town of Philippi.

**Personal Application**

Q What do you think are some of the reasons why Christians agonize over life decisions?

Q Read v6-10. The churches they are visiting are around the X on the map. How far do you think they travelled to go to Macedonia?

Why don’t they preach the word somewhere closer? Why do they decide on Macedonia?

Q “Man proposes, but God disposes” (cf. Proverbs 16:9) How is Acts 16:6-10 instructive regarding decision making?

Q Read v11-15. What do we know about Lydia? What was God’s purpose in bringing these missionaries all the way to Philippi?

Q What reason does Luke give us for Lydia’s response to Paul’s message?

Q How does Acts 16:9-15 instruct us about humility in ministry?

Q What advice might you give to someone who is stuck making a decision in life?
Chapter 16 contains the stories of the first converts in Philippi, a city in the north of Greece. The gospel has finally reached Europe. This continent, in the grip of darkness and slavery to sin is being exposed to the light of Christ and the freedom that is found only in Him.

Q In John 8:34, Jesus says that, “everyone who sins is a slave to sin”. What does that mean? What does that slavery look like?

Q Read v16-24. In what way is this fortune teller a double slave?

Q On the face of it, this girl is telling the truth, so why do you think Paul is so agitated by what she is shouting?

Q Why are Paul and Silas arrested? What made the slave-owners so angry? What does that tell you about their priorities?

Q Read v25-34. Why does the jailor want to kill himself? How does this become a radical turning point in his life?

Q What does Paul tell him he must do to be saved? What does it mean? Is this too simplistic?

Q What is the answer to the problem of our slavery to sin? (See John 8:36) How do you reconcile that with the fact that even as believers, we still continue to sin?