

LIFEGROUP

STUDY ON INTERRUPTIONS

1. Are you the kind of person who goes with the flow, or likes to be in control of the situation? Can you think of a time when being either over controlling, or too “go with the flow” put you in an awkward/inconvenient situation?

I nearly gave this past week’s message on Acts 16, but in the end chose to focus on a few of the times that Jesus was interrupted. However, for a study this week, this Acts 16 passage is fascinating, and should hopefully lead to some good discussion, and insight into how to deal with interruptions.

Read Acts 16:11-15

1. Lydia, was a business woman in Thyatira who sold purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God, but didn’t know about Jesus yet. Just reading her story, instead of being interrupted, annoyed or inconvenienced, she was open, engaging, and welcoming. As you know, for a business person to open their home up to visitors can be a great inconvenience.
 - 1.1 What can you learn from Lydia’s example?
 - 1.2 What would you say is most important to Lydia’s life?

Read Acts 16:16-40

1. Paul and Silas main purpose was to head to the place of prayer, to probably pray and preach. This slave girl was persistently crying out for many days. Was this beneficial to their work, or detrimental?
2. In verses 16-18, Paul becomes annoyed at this situation and then casts out the Spirit. Was it right or wrong for Paul to do this? What can you see about the power of God in this passage?

3. Paul and Silas’ ministry was further interrupted and frustrated because they were attacked, beaten, and imprisoned. In prison, things might not have been going according to “their plans,” how did they cope with the situations?
4. From the passage, what would you say are the ways Paul and Silas were able to deal with the interruptions to their plans?
5. If Paul and Silas were inflexible to situations, do you think they would have reacted differently? How do you think they would have felt in those situations?

FURTHER THOUGHTS

1. Do you ever have those feelings you mentioned in the previous question? Why do you think that happens? What might you do to see things differently?
2. These were the 5 points from the message. Would this help deal with irritations?
 - 2.1 Focus : Finding your feet - knowing your ground
 - 2.2 Compassion: Annoyance or Opportunity
 - 2.3 Discern what’s important: Reframing importance helps clarify whether it’s urgent
 - 2.4 Persistent People: Persistent requests may be highlighting something
 - 2.5 Spirit Opportunity: Filled with the Spirit, hearts at the ready, God’s agenda.