



The CHURCH Series

Part 15 - Macedonian Call

Introduction...

- As I sat down to begin to pen this Bible Study, I switched off completely the muted TV in the room.
- I heard clearly in my heart the words, “shut out the noise...”
- I feel led to share these simple words with you today before we get into our study; “shut yourself into God...”
- Those who spend time with God in this season will be the champions of the Kingdom in this hour.
- The season of Gifting is ending, it is now the era of being Spirit-Led.
- May the Hand and Presence of the Lord be upon you in this HOUR!
- May you carry God’s Presence rather than carry His Gifts...
- So switch OFF! Your phone, your TV, your game, your device and switch ON! To God.
- Its hard on the flesh but JOY to your Spirit and ultimately your Soul.
- Those who spend time with God In this season will benefit tremendously in this hour of deep darkness.



Introduction

- The natural beginning of chapter 16 is actually at the end of chapter 15 where we read:
- *³⁶ Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.”*
- *³⁷ Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark.*
- *³⁸ But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work.*
- *³⁹ Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus*



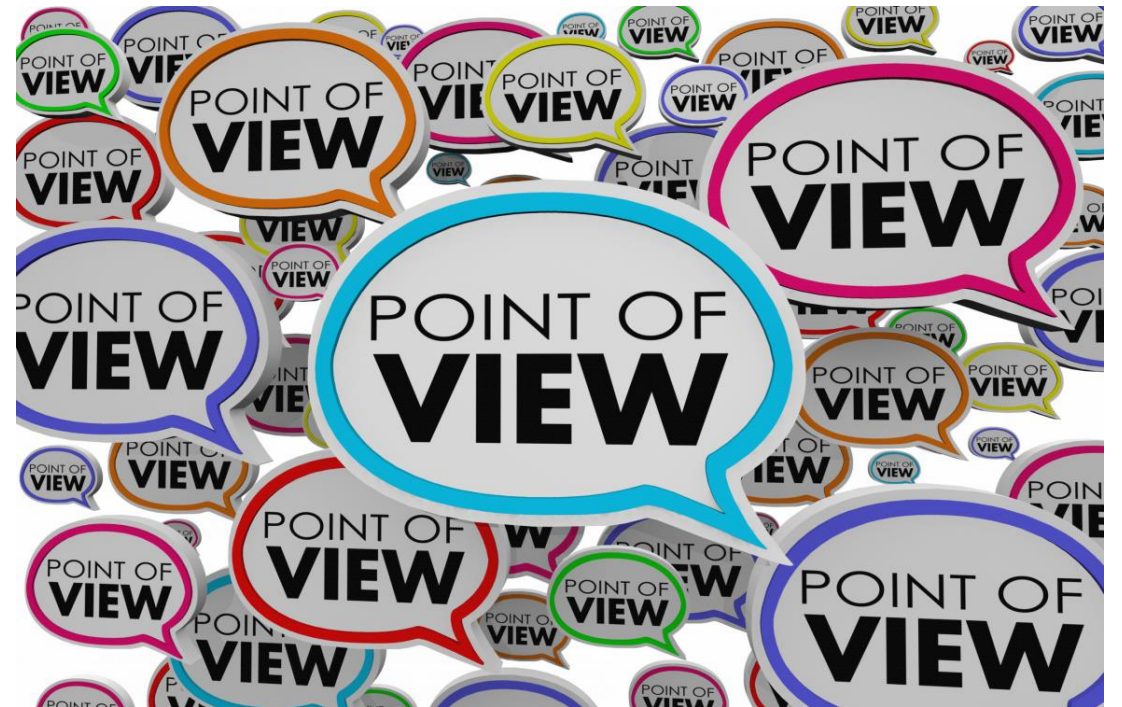
Conflict of Opinions

- This passage is very enlightening
- It shows that two spirit filled giants of faith can be human!
- The bible does not shy away from showing us reality.
- Different studies have tried to show who was wrong and who was right.
- The Bible is ambiguous about that.
- We all need a Barnabas in our lives; who encourages us and gives us a second chance.
- We all need a Paul in our lives who will drive us into destiny and model how to surrender totally to God!



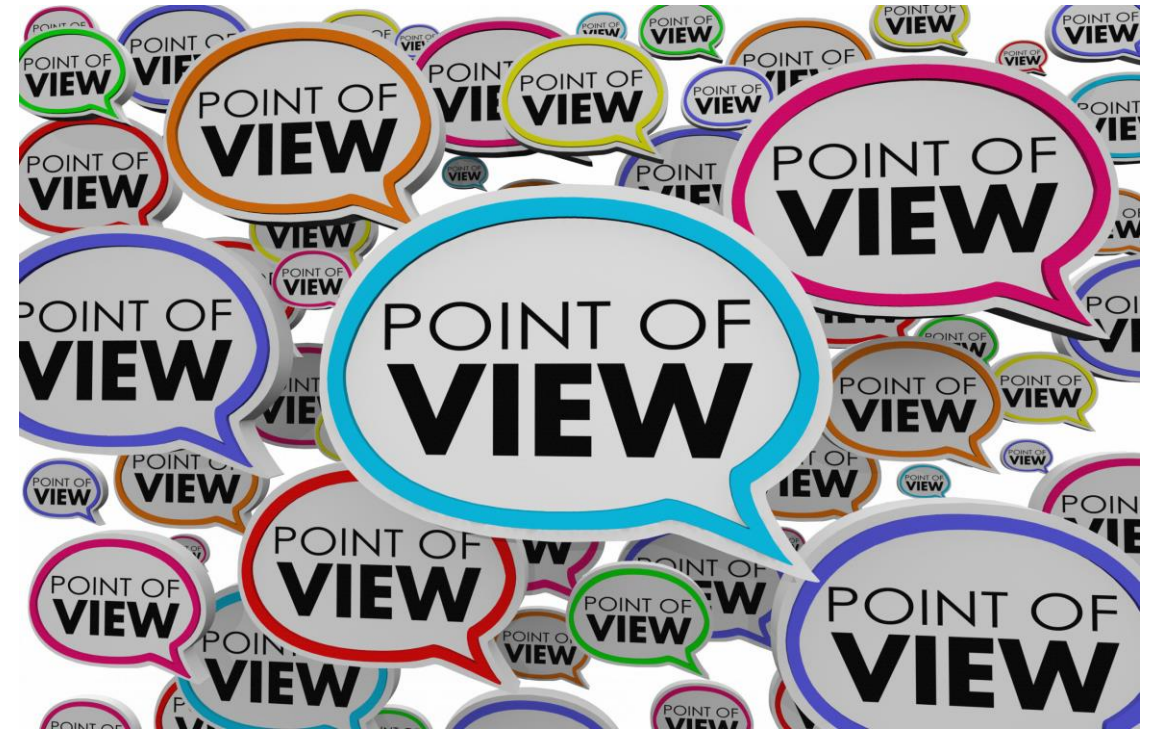
Paul's Points...

- John Mark was a member of the core team
- He abandoned ship at a crucial time and not fit for the rigors of missions
- If we take him again, he will or may become a distraction.
- We need warriors on the team, able to pitch in as the needs arise.
- Let him stay back and be useful here in the local church



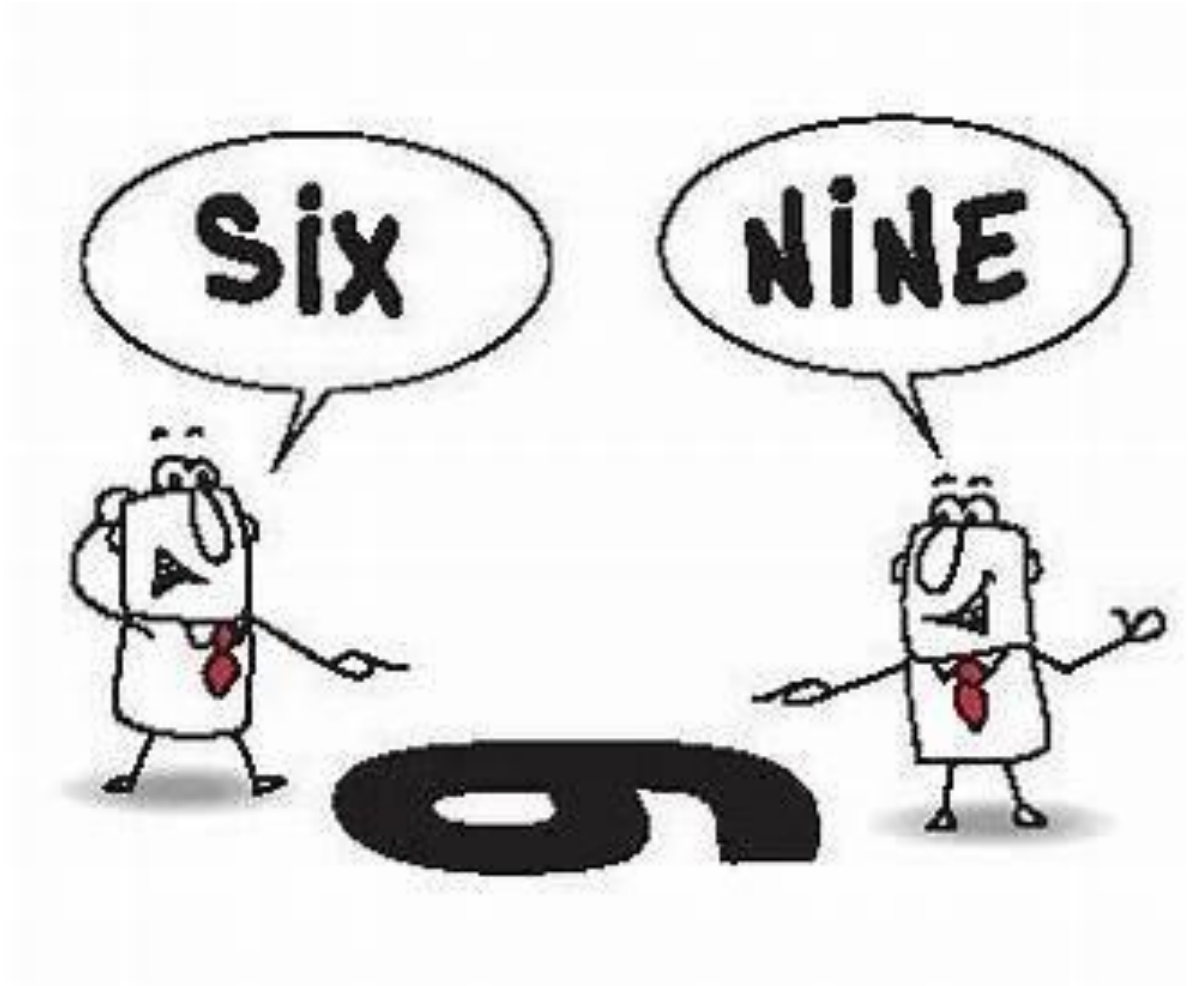
Barnabas'

- We acknowledge what happened before
- However we need to give people another chance.
- Everybody can grow on the job
- We need John Mark's skills for this mission
- He will not necessarily be a mere passenger.



For Free...

- When reconciliation or agreement is not possible, it may be best to part ways respectfully,
- allowing God to work through different approaches.
- Sometimes, God can multiply the impact of a ministry by taking individuals in separate directions.
- You do not need to demonise a person who does not agree with you or your opinion.



With Mark...

- Barnabas, known as an encourager, is willing to give John Mark a second chance.
- This mentorship allows John Mark to continue growing in his ministry under Barnabas's guidance.
- Later, John Mark matures into a valuable leader, even working alongside Paul again (Colossians 4:10, 2 Timothy 4:11).
- *¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him),*
- *¹¹ and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me. Colossians 4*



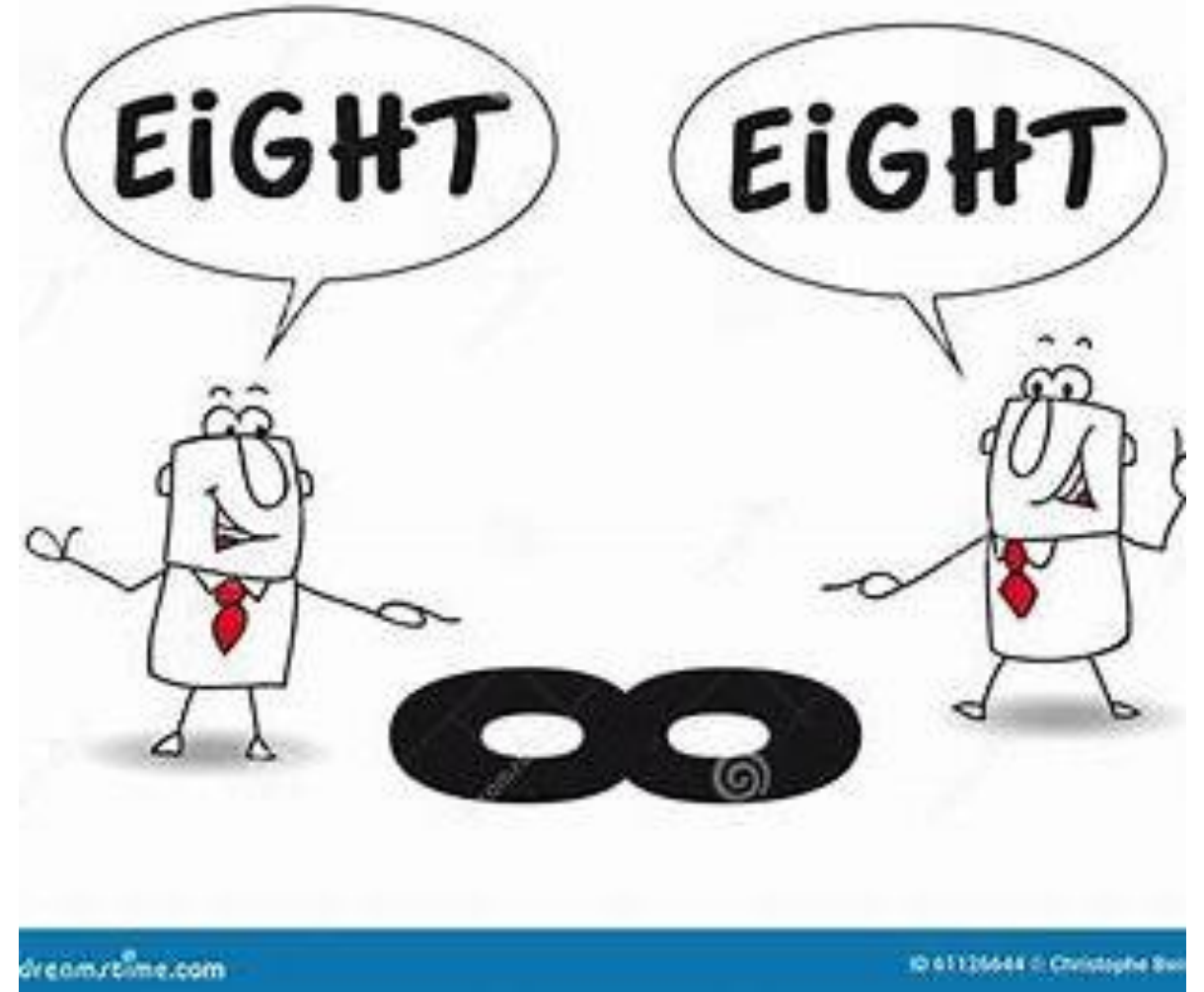
Get Mark...

- ⁹ Be diligent to come to me quickly; ¹⁰ for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica— Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.
- ¹¹ Only Luke is with me.
- Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. 2 Timothy 4:11



Lessons

- No matter how you quarrel or fight another person or Believer; leave the door of relationship open.
- Do not terminate any relationship even if you end intimacy or fellowship.
- When two Believers, couples or ministries break up a covenant; the Holy Spirit goes with each of the separating parties.
- God never gives up on anyone; so why should we?



Lessons...

- **Expect conflicts** even among committed believers, and don't lose faith over disagreements.
- **Respectfully separate** if needed, trusting that God can work through both paths.
- **Value mentorship** and give second chances; people grow with encouragement.
- **Appreciate different approaches** in ministry, as they can complement each other.
- **Trust that God can bring good** out of conflicts when handled well.
- **Stay committed to the mission**, allowing God to work beyond personal differences



Mission 2.0

- *Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy,*
- *the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek.*
- *²He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.*
- *³Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him*
- *and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek*
- Acts 16:1-3



Why?

- Circumcised him....
- Paul did not circumcise Timothy because he felt he was incomplete
- Paul did that (a painful process for Timothy!) because of fellowship with the Jews.
- This is an important lesson for us as Believers.
- If you marry into a particular culture, there may be painful things you have to go through to connect better.
- To reach people, you need to adjust some things in your life.
- Be all things to all men so that by any means necessary, you can reach them.



The WHY...

- *19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;*
- *20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;*
- *21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ),*
- *that I might win those who are without law; 22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak.*
- *I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. 23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23*



Come Yonder...

- ⁶ Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.
- ⁷ After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.
- ⁸ So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.
- ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”



NO. NO. NO!

- In Acts 16:6-10, Paul and his companions are guided by the Holy Spirit in their travels.
- They are prevented from preaching in certain areas and receive a vision that leads them to Macedonia.
- This shows the importance of seeking and following God's guidance, especially when our plans differ from His.
- There are places we can go to by ourselves and in our own strength.
- When was the last time God prevented you from going somewhere by the Holy Spirit within you?



Macedonia...

- Paul's vision of a man in Macedonia asking for help (16:9-10) symbolizes the openness and readiness of people in new regions to receive the gospel.
- There are people in your network open to hear the Gospel from your mouth
- There is a spiritual call to bring the message of hope and salvation to others.
- When we sense a need or calling, it is often an invitation to bring positive change to those open to hearing it.
- We all have a Macedonia..!



Lydia...

- ¹⁴ Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God.
- The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.
- ¹⁵ And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying,
- “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.”
- So she persuaded us.



Lydia...

- Lydia, a wealthy business woman and a "worshiper of God,"
- listens to Paul's message, and God opens her heart to accept it (16:13-15).
- She is baptized and offers hospitality to Paul and his companions.
- Lydia's example shows that faith often grows through community and generosity.
- Hospitality and kindness are powerful tools in building relationships and spreading the gospel.



BO TA JOR!

- *16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.*
- *17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation."*
- *18 And this she did for many days.*
- *But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her."*
- *And he came out that very hour.*
- *19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.*



OUT!

- In Acts 16:16-18, Paul casts out a spirit of divination from a slave girl.
- This act demonstrates spiritual authority over evil forces but also provokes backlash from those profiting off her
- God grants authority over evil, and we are called to confront and resist it.
- However, standing up for righteousness may sometimes result in opposition or hardship.



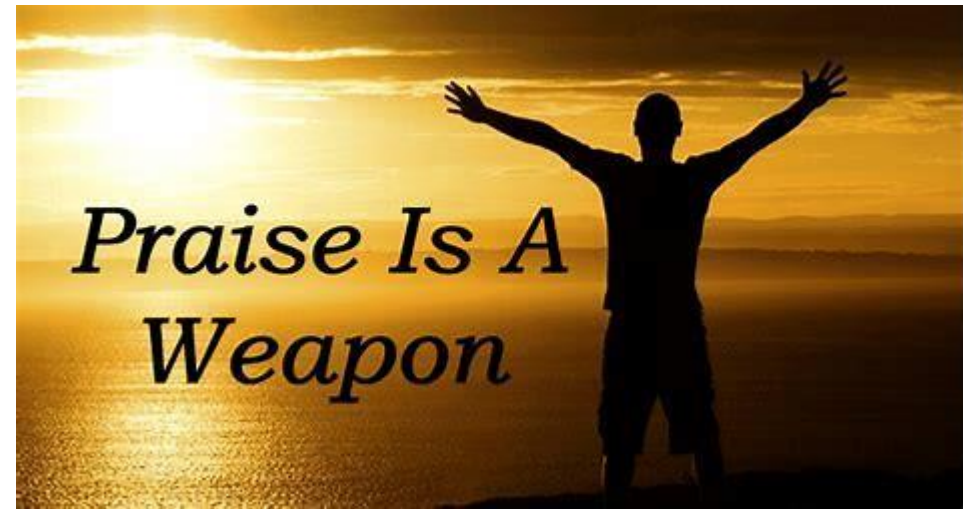
Weapon of Worship

- After being beaten and imprisoned, Paul and Silas pray and sing hymns in jail, showing faith despite suffering (16:25).
- Their worship and endurance inspire the other prisoners.
- Worship and prayer can sustain us through suffering.
- Even in the darkest situations, choosing to praise God can strengthen us and influence others around us.
- There is power in your worship and praise during sufferings



Worship!!

- God responds to Paul and Silas's faith
- by sending an earthquake that opens the prison doors and loosens their chains (16:26).
- Rather than escaping, they stay and share the gospel with the jailer,
- leading to his conversion along with his entire household



The GOSPEL....

- After the jailer's conversion, he and his whole household believe and are baptized (16:31-34).
- This reflects the gospel's reach to all people, regardless of social or cultural background
- The gospel is inclusive and extends to everyone.
- Sharing faith with families and communities can bring widespread transformation.



Justice!

- After their release, Paul and Silas reveal their Roman citizenship,
- which meant their imprisonment and beating without trial was illegal (16:37-39).
- Paul's stand for justice here shows that faith doesn't mean passivity in the face of injustice.
- It's acceptable to stand up for one's rights in a respectful way.
- Injustice should be addressed, and Paul's example shows that we can seek justice while remaining humble and faithful.



Chapter Summary....

