

Waiting

June 17, 2026

Acts 16

No. 5

It is not an uncommon experience for things to work contrary to the way we would like them to.

We could call this "broken plans."

A lot of things get broken in this life.

- Broken dish
- Broken friendship
- Broken heart
- Broken plans

Continuing in our series, "Lessons From The Farm," I would like to speak about one of the most important, yet sometimes difficult part of farming, waiting.

The waiting I would like to speak about has to do with broken plans.

Waiting is part of life, even our spiritual life:

- The people of God waited 400 years to come out from Egyptian bondage.
- The second generation from the Exodus waited 40 years to go into the Promised Land.
- Even the word "promise" intimates a "waiting."
- The world waited 4,000 years for the coming of the Savior.
- The Church today is waiting to be raptured from this earth.

So in our own personal lives, there will certainly be times of waiting.

Let's think about the work of the farmer.

Spring; he cultivates the land and sows his seed

Summer; he battles the elements and nourishes the crops

Fall; the harvest!

But, right before the fall is the period of waiting.

He has to wait for the crops to grow.

This period is actually in the hands of God.

No man can make crops grow. He can only help provide suitable circumstances for growth but the real growth comes from God.

Regarding the Gospel, the Apostle Paul said;

I Cor 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.

v.7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

So, With all of these thoughts in mind,

- Broken plans
- Waiting
- Only God can bring growth



We see that

Paul was commissioned by God to travel through Europe and Asia preaching the Gospel of Christ.

On his second missionary journey, we find him in;

Acts 16

He met young Timothy and took him under his wing.

Like many of us here, Paul had some good ideas, some plans to travel and preach the Gospel.

After all, this is what he was commissioned to do.

v.5 *So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.*

v.6 *They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia;*

ie.

God was saying, "Not now, Paul."

v.7 *and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; ie.*

"Not now, Paul

v.8 Principle: Trusting God is true obedience.

and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

Let's follow the map;

Jerusalem, bottom right corner (beginning)



Derbe, Lystra (Timothy)
 Thru Phrygia & Galatia
 Came to Mysia
 Desired to go to Bythynia
 Arrived at Troas
 From Troas he saw a vision of a man from Macedonia. (across Aegean Sea)
 If Paul had his way, he would have missed the man from Macedonia.

Now,
 We don't know why the Spirit

prohibited Paul from going to Bithynia, but we do know this.

Later on, that door was opened and churches were planted there.

(Letters to the 7 churches in Rev.)



Ephesus, Smyrna
 Pergamum, Thyatira
 Sardis, Philadelphia
 Laodicea

Perhaps it was a matter of the heart.

Maybe those in Macedonia were presently receptive to the Gospel and those in Bithynia were not.

But whatever the reason, God knows the before, during and after.

v.9 *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."*

v.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.*

In Macedonia, churches were planted in Philippi, Berea, Thessalonica and Corinth. (epistles to there)

Philippi
Berea
Thessalonica
Corinth



Application:

Waiting for what we think is right is a big part of our spiritual growth.

In your own life, many of you have waited and some are still waiting for what you consider to be that "good thing." – an open door Remember this:

The Spirit not only has a service of work but a service of waiting.

A desert place is a useful place, though it seems that nothing grows there. What grows there is one's faith.

Mt 4:1 *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness*

That was his place of victory.

Briefly; The Doctrine of Waiting:

1. In our waiting, God can teach us.

Ps 25:5 *Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day.*

2. Waiting is the pathway to promotion.

Ps 37:34 *Wait for the LORD and keep His way, And He will exalt you to inherit the land;*

3. Waiting reveals our hope is in God and not ourself.

Ps 39:7 *And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You.*

4. Waiting on God shuts out other voices.

Ps 62:5 My soul, wait in silence for God only, For my hope is from Him.

5. Even the animals know to wait on God.

Ps 104:27 They all wait for You To give them their food in due season. Finally;

6. Waiting on God gives me strength.

Is 40:31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

In your waiting, when you pray, ask God to show you another door. Remember the power of the still, small voice which you can only hear when you wait in silence.

And do not murmur when the Spirit does not allow you to go where you would.

God knows what was, what is, and what will be.

Remember the farmer;

After he has done all he could do:

- Plow the field
- Plant the seed
- Cultivates the crop

He had to wait for the growth and that depended on God.

Then,

Came the harvest!