

Sermon Title: "RETRACING THEIR STEPS"

Date: September 17, 2023 - Acts 15:36-16:10

Central Idea: Concerning the future of our lives, we must always be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to lead in your life?

Introduction: We have observed the history of the early church to the year A.D. 50. Luke will now begin a new section in his account. He sets it off with the words "after some days." This phrase is used with some frequency to note a time division and transition to a new section of his work. Notice that Paul does not intend a second journey for missionary evangelism, though that is precisely what God will do with this proposed trip. His plan was to retrace the memorable steps of his first missionary journey.

I. Disagreement over Mark Acts 15:36-41

- 1. The issue vv. 36-37**
- 2. The argument vv. 38-39a**
- 3. The solution vv. 39b-41**

II. Encouragement to Grow Acts 16:1-5

- 1. Introduction of Timothy vv. 1-2**
- 2. Circumcision of Timothy v. 3**
- 3. Ministry of the team vv. 4-5**

III. Obedience to the Holy Spirit Acts 16:6-10

- 1. Divine diversion vv. 6-7**
- 2. Divine direction vv. 8-10**

Conclusion: Luke tells us that the missionary team continued north and west. In some way, the Holy Spirit kept them from preaching the Word in the province of Asia. Luke emphasizes neither geography nor personalities, but rather the absolute God-directed plan and route of this missionary trip. Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to lead you in every decision of your life?