



## **“Paul’s Plans, God’s Plans, Paul’s Response”**

ACTS 16:1-10

**MAIN POINT:** WHEN OUR PLANS ARE REDIRECTED BY GOD, CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO RESPOND IN FAITH BY TAKING RISKS FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL.

### **I. Paul’s Plans (Acts 15:36, 16:6-7)**

### **II. God’s Plans Redirect Paul (Acts 16:1-3, 6-7, 9)**

### **III. Paul Responds in Faith by Taking Risks (16:10)**

“That invasion of Europe was not in the mind of Paul, but it was evidently in the mind of the Spirit. With the benefit of hindsight, knowing that Europe became the first Christian continent and was until fairly recently the main base for missionary outreach to the rest of the world, we can see what an epoch-making development this was. It was from Europe that in due course the gospel fanned out to the great continents of Africa, Asia, North America, Latin America and Oceania, and so reached the ends of the earth.” (John Stott)

“Some goals are so worthy, it is glorious even to attempt and fail.” (Jackson Brown, Jr.)

“Without risk, there is no forward progress to the gospel. *The gospel breaks forth by people adding ‘risk’ to the leading of the Spirit.*” (Dave Harvey)

#### **Application questions:**

- 1) How did Paul interpret the redirection of his plans? When your plans are redirected by various means, how do you typically interpret this redirection? What can you glean and apply from Paul’s example?
- 2) When God has redirected your plans in the past, what has been your response to this redirection? Have you responded with faith and confidence in God or have you seen worry, fear, and anxiety?
- 3) What was the last “risk” that you took for the Gospel? What fruit was produced in your life?
- 4) Where is God calling you to add “risk” as a new category of being led by the Spirit?
- 5) What “risks” is God calling you to make for the Gospel? Have you shared them with others for counsel and confirmation? If not, when do you plan to do so?