

Acts 16:6-15

[Paul, Silas, and Timothy] travelled through the Phrygian and Galatian region, prevented by the Holy Spirit from delivering the message in the province of Asia. When they approached the Mysian border they tried to enter Bithynia, but, as the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them, they passed through Mysia and reached the coast at Troas. During the night a vision came to Paul: a Macedonian stood there appealing to him, 'Cross over to Macedonia and help us.' As soon as he had seen this vision, we set about getting a passage to Macedonia, convinced that God had called us to take the good news there. We sailed from Troas and made a straight run to Samothrace, the next day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, a leading city in that district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. Here we stayed for some days, and on the sabbath we went outside the city gate by the riverside, where we thought there would be a place of prayer; we sat down and talked to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was called Lydia, a dealer in purple fabric, who came from the city of Thyatira; she was a worshipper of God, and the Lord opened her heart to respond to what Paul said. She was baptized, and her household with her, and then she urged us, 'Now that you have accepted me as a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house.' And she insisted on our going.

MAP 2.0 Scripture for Prayer and Reflection

Church of St John the Evangelist

While reading and reflecting on these passages, consider:

- Where do I sense the Holy Spirit moving in our parish?
- Where might the Spirit be guiding or redirecting us?

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shout aloud without restraint; lift up your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins, although they ask guidance of me day after day and say they delight in knowing my ways. As if they were a nation which had acted rightly and had not abandoned the just laws of their God, they ask me for righteous laws and delight in approaching God. 'Why should we fast, if you ignore it? Why mortify ourselves, if you pay no heed?' In fact you serve your own interests on your fast-day and keep all your men hard at work. Your fasting leads only to wrangling and strife and to lashing out with vicious blows. On such a day the fast you are keeping is not one that will carry your voice to heaven. Is this the kind of fast that I require, a day of mortification such as this: that a person should bow his head like a bulrush and use sackcloth and ashes for a bed? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Rather, is not this the fast I require: to loose the fetters of injustice, to untie the knots of the yoke, and set free those who are oppressed, tearing off every yoke? Is it not sharing your food with the hungry, taking the homeless poor into your house, clothing the naked when you meet them, and never evading a duty to your kinsfolk? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and new skin will speedily grow over your wound; your righteousness will be your vanguard and the glory of the Lord your rearguard. Then, when you call, the Lord will answer; when you cry to him, he will say, 'Here I am.'

1 Corinthians 2:1-12a

So it was, my friends, that I came to you, without any pretensions to eloquence or wisdom in declaring the truth about God. I resolved that while I was with you I would not claim to know anything but Jesus Christ—Christ nailed to the cross. I came before you in weakness, in fear, in great trepidation. The word I spoke, the gospel I proclaimed, did not sway you with clever arguments; it carried conviction by spiritual power, so that your faith might be built not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Among the mature I do speak words of wisdom, though not a wisdom belonging to this present age or to its governing powers, already in decline; I speak God's hidden wisdom, his secret purpose framed from the very beginning to bring us to our destined glory. None of the powers that rule the world has known that wisdom; if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. Scripture speaks of 'things beyond our seeing, things beyond our hearing, things beyond our imagining, all prepared by God for those who love him'; and these are what God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit explores everything, even the depths of God's own nature. Who knows what a human being is but the human spirit within him? In the same way, only the Spirit of God knows what God is. And we have received this Spirit from God, not the spirit of the world, so that we may know all that God has lavished on us.

Matthew 5:13-20

[Jesus said] 'You are salt to the world. And if salt becomes tasteless, how is its saltiness to be restored? It is good for nothing but to be thrown away and trodden underfoot. 'You are light for all the world. A town that stands on a hill cannot be hidden. When a lamp is lit, it is not put under the meal-tub, but on the lampstand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. Like the lamp, you must shed light among your fellows, so that, when they see the good you do, they may give praise to your Father in heaven. 'Do not suppose that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to complete. Truly I tell you: so long as heaven and earth endure, not a letter, not a dot, will disappear from the law until all that must happen has happened. Anyone therefore who sets aside even the least of the law's demands, and teaches others to do the same, will have the lowest place in the kingdom of Heaven, whereas anyone who keeps the law, and teaches others to do so, will rank high in the kingdom of Heaven. I tell you, unless you show yourselves far better than the scribes and Pharisees, you can never enter the kingdom of Heaven.

John 14:15-17

'If you love me you will obey my commands; and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another to be your advocate, who will be with you for ever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because the world neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he dwells with you and will be in you.

Acts 2:1-4

The day of Pentecost had come, and they were all together in one place. Suddenly there came from the sky what sounded like a strong, driving wind, a noise which filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them flames like tongues of fire distributed among them and coming to rest on each one. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them power of utterance.