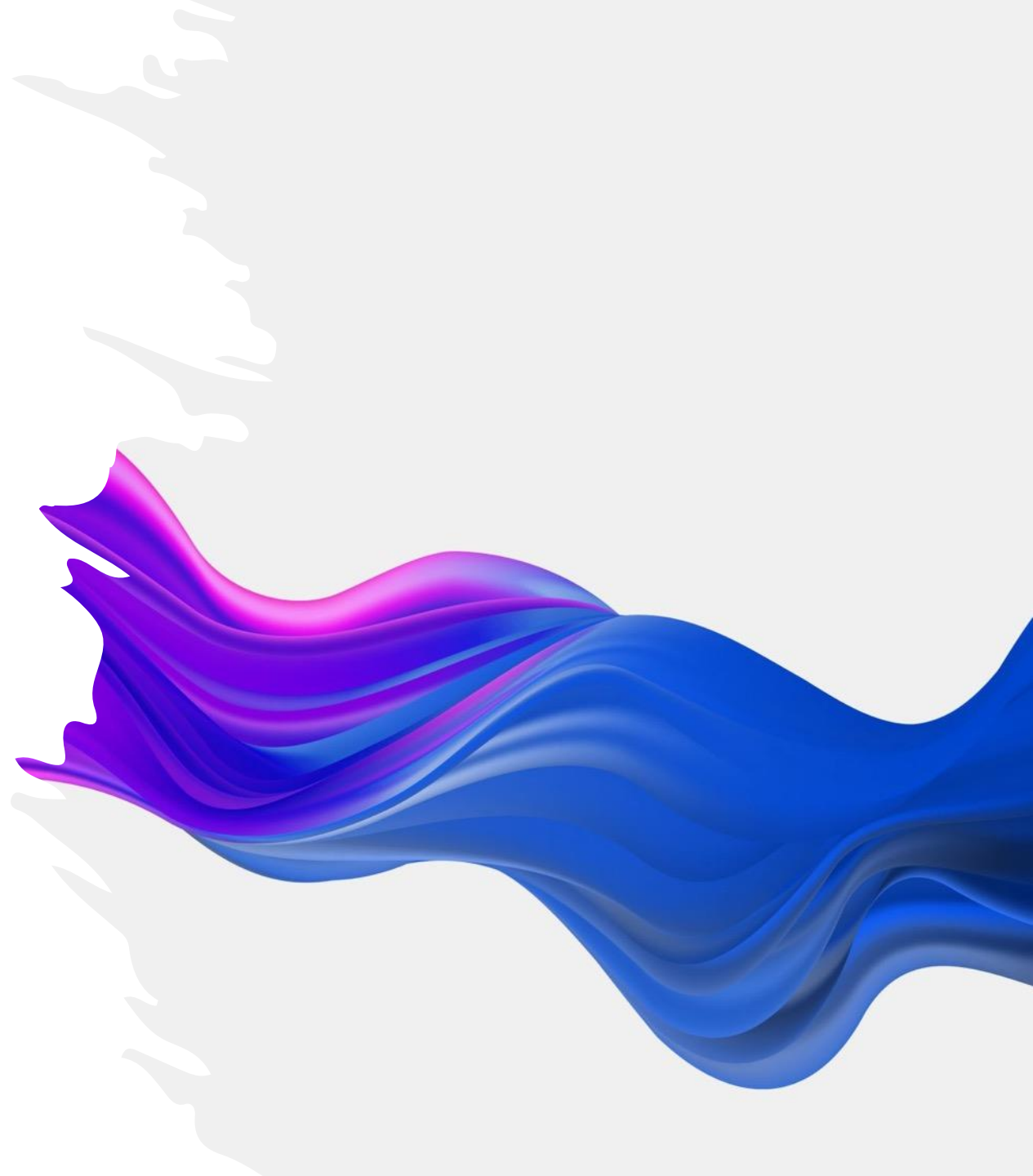


Lessons on Evangelism from Paul's Second Missionary Journey (Acts 16:1-10)

SJSM Sermon | E1 and E2
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Paul's Second Missionary Journey



First Missionary Journey:
Acts 13:2 to 14:27

Jerusalem Council
Acts 15:1-35

Second Missionary Journey:
Acts 15:36 to 18:22

1. Deepen and widen

- The first purpose of the Second Missionary Journey was to care for the converts from the First Missionary Journey and deepen their faith (Acts 15:36-16:5):
 - Acts 15:36 And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.”



➔ Evangelism deepens faith through relationships, not just hit and run, or adding scores.

1. Deepen and widen

- The Second Missionary Journey went beyond to explore the regions to the west and the north.
 - Acts 1:8 ...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
 - 2Cor. 10:16 ...that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you...
 - Rom. 15:20 and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named...



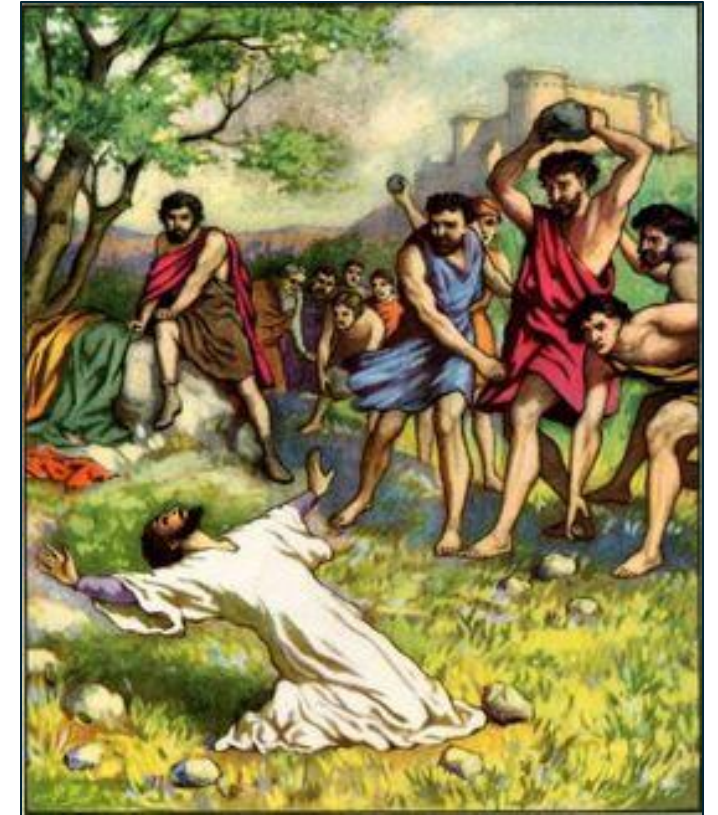
➔ Evangelism should be extended beyond our familiar geographical and social circles.

2. Remove stumbling blocks



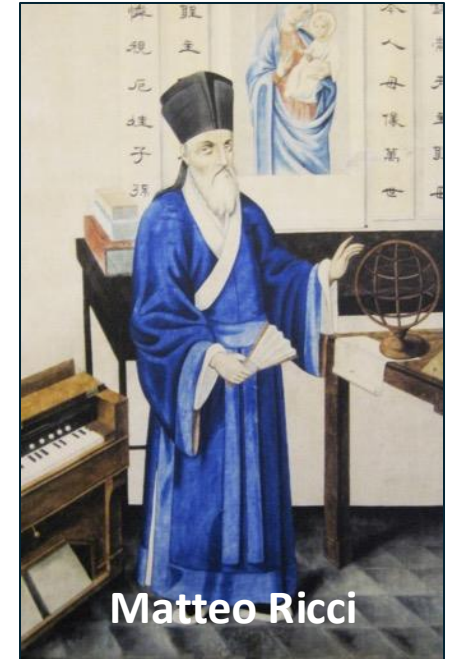
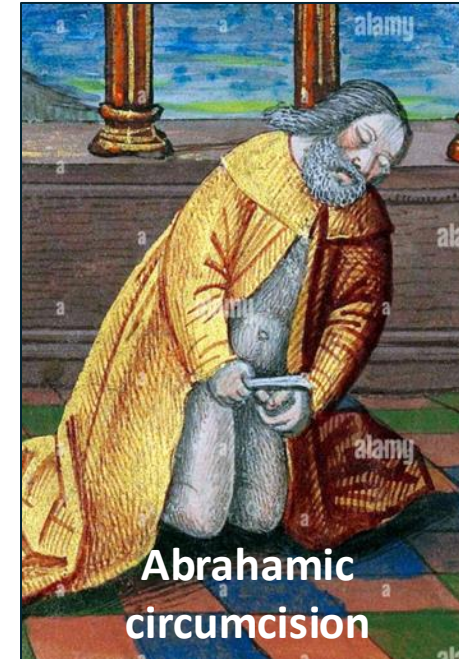
→ Evangelistic fruitfulness with integrity comes with temptations and suffering.

- Lystra: First Missionary Journey
- Paul and Barnabas was **mobbed by Gentiles** when they refused their worship as Hermes and Zeus (Acts 14:8-18).
- Paul was subsequently **stoned by Jews** jealous of his success (Acts 14:19).



2. Remove stumbling blocks

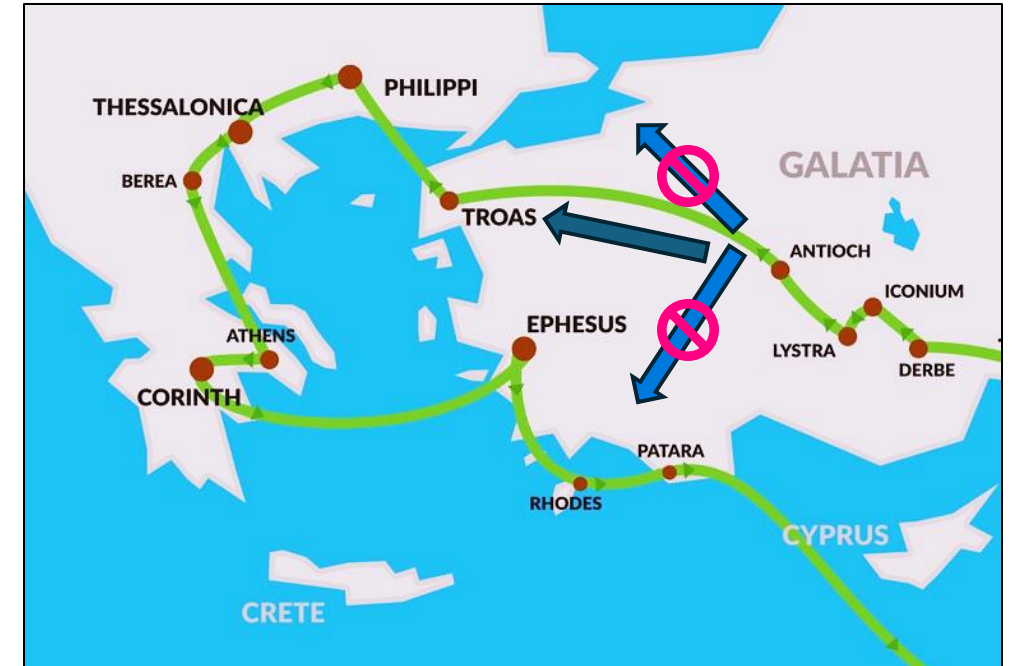
- **Circumcision of Timothy (Jewish mother, Greek father)**
 - Jewishness is reckoned by the mother's line.
 - Circumcision is for the Jews the sign of the covenant with God with Abraham and his descendants.
 - Though the ruling of the Council of Jerusalem did not require Gentiles to first become Jews to be saved, Paul did not want to stumble the Jews by considering Timothy a Gentile. He circumcised Timothy to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matt 3:15, Baptism of Jesus).



➔ Evangelism calls for us to build **bridges** that connect, **not barriers** that cause conflict and offense.

3. Follow the Lord's direction

- They were prevented from going **north-west** or **south-west**:
 - Acts 16:6-7 ...**forbidden by the Holy Spirit** to speak the word in **Asia** ... when they had come up to **Mysia**, they attempted to go into **Bithynia**, but the **Spirit of Jesus did not allow them**.
- They could only go **west**:
 - Acts 16:8-10 ...passing by **Mysia**, they went down to **Troas**. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of **Macedonia** was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to **Macedonia** and help us." 10 And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into **Macedonia**, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.
 - The rest is history: **Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, etc.**



In evangelism, the proper exercise of human wisdom must also be subjected to divine override.

Conclusion

- Evangelism is not about building an earthly kingdom, putting on a good show, or scoring sales.
- Evangelism is **bearing authentic witness** to the life of Christ, first by **relational demonstration**, and then by **truthful sharing**, to all who will hear, in every geographical, social and cultural space where Christ, the Lord of the Harvest, may send us.
- May multitudes of “**the poor and crippled and blind and lame**”, from “**the streets and lanes... highways and hedges**” (Luke 14:21-23) join us at the great banquet when Christ returns.