

Episode: Acts Series No. 16

Narrators: Luke, Timothy, Philip the evangelist

Primary Scriptures: Acts 19-20

Story Summary: The Third Missionary Journey

Location: Roman Empire; Galatia, Macedonia, Greece

Time: 30 AD Jesus crucified and resurrected; Pentecost; Holy Spirit arrives
 46 AD First Missionary Journey starts
 48 – 51 AD Second Missionary Journey
 52-57 AD Third Missionary Journey

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Acts 19:5-6, 10, 25; 20:24, 35

Paul was anxious to follow up on the success of the Second Missionary Journey, so he didn't wait very long to start another journey. It seems as if Paul had much to do and knew he was running out of time. Although the description in *Acts* of the Third Missionary Journey is not extensive, the trip was more than twice as long in calendar time as the Second Missionary Journey, and accomplished much, including the writing of several of the books in the New Testament.

At the end of the Second Missionary Journey, Paul was in Antioch; Priscilla and Aquilla were in Ephesus where they met Apollos; Luke was probably in Philippi; and the location of Silas and Timothy remains unknown, although they were last mentioned in Corinth with Paul. During Luke's description of the Third Missionary Journey, the action almost always centers on Paul, making it unclear what most of the others were doing.

Paul spent almost three years in Ephesus teaching and preaching. Since Ephesus was a major city, Paul was able to affect more people in one place than by traveling around. While in Ephesus, Paul seemed to have intensified his training efforts with a lot of young men. It is likely that many churches were planted throughout the province of Asia during this time period, including the churches mentioned in *Revelation*.

The church in Corinth continued to have a long list of problems. Paul and the other Christian leaders exerted a lot of efforts to guide them, including personal trips and writing of multiple letters.

The Christians' effects on the city of Ephesus were dramatic, even though the city was large and affluent, and since so many people quit worshiping Artemis—and quit paying for the privilege of doing so—the Christians' teachings resulted in a change in the whole city's economy. Once more, Paul was forced to leave, continuing the Third Missionary Journey in Macedonia and Greece.

Discussion Questions:

1. About how long was the Third Missionary Journey? Of that time, how long did Paul stay in Ephesus?
 2. What were some of the major happenings during the Third Missionary Journey?
 3. How did Paul know they had been effective in Ephesus?
 4. What is the most western distant city Paul visited on both the Second and Third Missionary Journeys?
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1. 5 years. 3 years. 2. training men, dealing with problems at Corinth and other churches, gathering relief funds for Jerusalem church. 3. the incomes from the silversmiths had decreased so much that they caused a riot. The Christians were no longer buying idols.
 4. Corinth

Application Questions:

1. The Holy Spirit gave the Christian leaders audiences with influential people of the time. If you had such an audience now, what would you say? Write down your thoughts.
2. Paul had the authority to teach the Corinthians because they had seen his personal example, not just because he was an apostle. If someone followed you last week, how would they have viewed your personal example?
3. The Corinthians had trouble with worldly living. Is there some part of worldly living that you are having a hard time giving up? Why do you value it so highly?

Application Questions for Teens:

1. The Holy Spirit gave the Christian leaders audiences with influential people of the time. If you had such an audience now, what would you say? Write down your thoughts.
2. Paul taught in the heat of the day when it was surely uncomfortable. Are you willing to be inconvenienced and uncomfortable in order to learn more about the Bible or to bring others to Christ? Have you ever gone on a mission trip to a place that made you uncomfortable so you could serve God and share the Word with others?
3. Paul knew he was effective in Ephesus because the income of the idol makers decreased. How can you know if you are being effective in sharing the Gospel?
4. Paul and the other Christians stayed in Ephesus but were untouched by their pagan surroundings. What concrete steps are you taking to retain your faith in the midst of surroundings that would tempt you otherwise?