

**Episode:** Acts Series No. 14

**Narrator:** Timothy

**Primary Scriptures:** Acts 15-18

**Story Summary:** Timothy's story

**Location:** Roman Empire; Galatia, Macedonia, Greece

<b>Time:</b> 30 AD	Jesus crucified and resurrected; Pentecost; Holy Spirit arrives
46 AD	Paul's "famine visit" to Jerusalem; First Missionary Journey starts
48 AD	Council at Jerusalem; Start of Second Missionary Journey
51 AD	End of Second Missionary Journey

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Acts 15:39, 16:1-2, 3; 17:14-15; 18:5

From the beginning, Paul followed the pattern that he had learned as a Jew – the older men needed to train the younger men to take their place. Paul's first successful trainee was likely Titus, and his second was Timothy. We don't know how Paul met Titus, but it is likely he met Timothy or his family on the First Missionary Journey.

Timothy was a perfect example of the way Christianity conflicted with other cultures and religions. He was convinced that he wanted to evangelize the Jews, and he knew he could be effective doing that only if he qualified to enter the synagogues. Since his mother was Jewish, Timothy would qualify to do that once he was circumcised.

In the Greek culture, however, it was considered abhorrent to disfigure your body in any way, and circumcision was one of the worst disfigurements a man could have. Timothy's father was Greek and would not allow his son to be circumcised at birth. Scripture indicates that Timothy's father was not in the picture, but we don't know whether he died or lived somewhere else.

Timothy had a choice to make, and the overtones of that choice were much more important than the immense pain he would suffer. If he chose to be circumcised, he could more easily evangelize the Jews, but he would dishonor his father. If he chose to remain uncircumcised, he would honor his father, but would be hampered in his evangelistic efforts. Timothy chose to be circumcised.

As the Second Missionary Journey progressed, Timothy was entrusted several times with helping young churches grow and quickly became like a son to Paul.

Although Timothy has a reputation for being young when he joined Paul and Silas, we do not have a way to know his age definitively. This episode portrays him as a young man with a sensitive stomach, a description derived from 1 Timothy 5:23 where Paul instructs Timothy to stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of his stomach and frequent illnesses. We do not have any guidance on when Timothy began having those health issues.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What nationality was Timothy's father, and why was that important?
  2. Why did Timothy choose to be circumcised?
  3. What city did Paul first leave Timothy in by himself to help guide the new church?
  4. What is the difference between Philippi and Caesarea Philippi?
  5. Why was it necessary to leave people behind to support new churches?
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1. Greek. Greeks were against circumcision or any other thing that disfigured the body.
  2. to make it easier to testify to the Jews.
  3. Philippi.
  4. Philippi is in Macedonia and was a city visited on the Second Missionary Journey. Caesarea Philippi is in northern Israel and was the place of Peter's confession of Jesus being Messiah.
  5. They had to overcome old habits; learn about Christianity; standards had to be established about how church members should behave.

### Application Questions:

1. Have you ever been involved with a church project where people clashed because of their different backgrounds or cultures? How was the problem addressed? In retrospect, how could it have been addressed better?
2. How much of what you like about your church has to do with culture versus Biblical example?
3. How would you feel about your teenage child(ren) leaving your home tomorrow to go travel as an intern with a vibrant leader in the faith? How would they feel?
4. Paul and his companions seemed determined to proclaim the truth even if they caused riots or landed them in jail. Do you have that same determination? Why or why not?

### Application Questions for Teens:

1. Timothy had to choose between honoring his father or honoring his mission. How would that choice be influenced if his father was dead? What if he had abandoned Timothy? How does your relationship with your parent(s) influence your faith choices?
2. How would you feel about leaving your home tomorrow to go travel as an intern with a vibrant leader in the faith? How would your parent(s) feel?
3. Timothy was obedient to Paul from the start. If you are in America, that often goes against societal norms. Do you consider yourself an obedient person to those in authority over you, or do you like to think that nobody has authority over you?
4. Is it better to follow the authority of those wiser than you or reject authority and do things your own way?