

LIVING WITH LIFE'S SECOND BESTS

Scripture: Acts 16:6-10

Intro. Almost to a person, none of us have had the chance to live our lives on the basis of our first choice. All of us have to live life on 2nd, 3rd, or even 4th choices. The historical record proves that many have failed at their first choices. They lost. Did not fulfill their dreams. Disappointed ... they felt like they could just fade away. It did not work out.

Acts 16:6-10 NIV

6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. **7** When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. **8** So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. **9** During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." **10** After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

The Point: Each of us has gotten a Troas, a second choice, a second best.
The question is: What do we do with our disappointments? What of the failures, the thwarted goals?

I. _____ them to God

- A. "The Spirit of Jesus would not let them ... so they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas."
- B. How often do we submit to the "obstacle" that prevents our plan?
- C. The way of the Christian is the way of submission.
But God knew the future. The gospel must go to Europe.
- D. Paul submitted, "so he passed by" his dream, his goal ... Bithynia.

II. Believe that God has a _____

- A. The trouble with so many of us, when we are forced to go to Troas, is that we begin to pity ourselves.

B. Paul was not so self centered. He submitted to God and began thinking about others who may need the gospel.

III. _____ them

**A. Paul did not spend any time rehearsing the past.
He let it go ... and pressed on.**

B. If you do not leave it behind ... and neglect it ... You can never reach your potential.

IV. Wait for them to grow up into a _____

**A. Paul's first choice was negated ... God said no!
Refused ... restrained ... not allowed.**

**B. An illustration from Genesis 37.
Joe found himself in similar circumstances.
What potential. Dreams. Favored. He saw his future and it was bright. But His future Bithynia turned suddenly to Troas.**

**C. Question:
What was the blessing that was created by Paul being stopped from going to Asia and instead turned toward Europe?**

**Answer:
We live in the effects of that decision of the Holy Spirit and the obedience of Paul.**

Concluding Application:

When you submit your first choices to the cross, when you leave them, bury them ... the things you think are your second choice will become a blessing beyond your first choice.

**When you submit your best to the cross and leave it there,
When you trust in God and live with life's second best ...
You will find you live with the best!**