

Acts of Jesus, Lesson 28: Closed Doors

- Ever missed an opportunity? Sometimes opportunities come in disguise - even disguised as barriers or closed doors.
- In our study today, we are going to see that some early missionaries discovered a great open door of opportunity, but that open door came at the expense of several closed ones.
 - **Acts 16:4-10** “They” changes to “we” down in verse ten which means that Luke has now joined up with Paul.
 - Isn't it comforting to know that even the apostles were not always clear as to what God's will was for them?
 - They were just regular people who were totally sold out to God and His will - and God used them. He will do the same with us if we'll let Him.
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→ There are a couple of points to address here immediately:

1. When God closes a door (when things fall through; when it doesn't work out) it means there is one open somewhere else.
 - God is leading us in the way He wants us to go—to be sure. The difficulty comes when that way differs from our plans.
 - If you really want God's direction for your life, then you need to give Him freedom to disagree with your current direction.
 - Struggling with open and closed doors is a healthy part of life and one of many ways we come to know God better.
 2. A Closed door doesn't mean forever; Paul did wind up going to these areas later and had a fruitful ministry there.
 - It's not true that a lack of instant success means that you are not in the right place doing the right thing.
 - “Knock and the door shall be opened for” but it doesn't say “when”
 - The time might not be right – let God decide what the best time is.
 - You may not be right either: - Too many Christians think that the most important thing is to find out is what God wants them to do and where He wants them to do it.
 - God is far more interested in who you are - your character, your relationship with Him, than He is about what you do for Him.
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❖ **Someone once said man's disappointments are often God's appointments.**

- Do your best not to get discouraged about something not working out, it may later when God knows you're ready or it just might be that your aim is off and God has much better plans for you.
 - Paul had the fortitude not to get discouraged when the doors got slammed, but he also had the insight to see through those close doors and see the open one.
 - Don't let the disappointment of a closed door keep you from seeing the open one.
 - Think of a close door like a sign post leading to where God wants you to be.
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