

CHANGED LIVES

Lesson 15

SILAS:

Acts 15:22-40

Acts 16:19-29

Acts 17:4-15

Acts 18:5

2 Corinthians 1:19

1 Thessalonians 1:1

2 Thessalonians 1:1

I Peter 5:12

Did you Notice:

Silas is Aramaic for the Hebrew name Saul. Silvanus is the latin form of the Aramaic: Silas. Use of his latin name helps identify him as a Roman citizen.

Acts 15:22-33 A leader in the church at Jerusalem, is sent to Antioch to confirm the authenticity and authority of the letter regarding the acceptance of Gentiles. He worked and encouraged the brothers in Antioch and then returned to Jerusalem.

Acts 15:34-41 Paul recruits Silas to journey with him on his second missionary journey through Syria and Cilicia. Silas was known as being faithful and fearless; a contrast to John Mark, that Barnabas wanted to take. Silas was also able to speak on behalf of the Jerusalem church (and could report later what had happened on the journey). Silas, Roman citizenship would enable him to be easily accepted by the Gentile community; while his Jewish heritage would help with the work in the synagogues.

Acts 16:19-29 Silas is arrested and imprisoned with Paul in Philippi, following Paul's casting out a demons from a girl. They are faithful in praising God despite their circumstances. They are saved by the Lord and help the jailors family to accept Jesus. Paul and Silas are released and escorted from the prison, once it becomes known that they are Roman citizens.

Acts 17:4-15 Paul and Silas are effective in Thessalonica and then Berea before they are run out of each. Silas remained behind in Berea with Timothy, while Paul was sent ahead.

Acts 18:5 Silas and Timothy catch up with Paul in Corinth. They stayed in Corinth for a year and a half working with the believers.

2 Corinthians 1:19 Silas also preached in Corinth and was well known by the people there.

1 Thessalonians 1:1 Silas is involved in the sending of this letter to the church at Thessalonica. Written from Corinth while they were working there on the second missionary journey.

2 Thessalonians 1:1 Silas is involved in writing this letter to the Thessalonians. Written during the time they were in Corinth (Around 52 AD)

1 Peter 5:12 Silas joins Peter in sending this letter to persecuted believers throughout much of the area that Silas had traveled during the 2nd Missionary journey with Paul. Peter's experiences with persecution would have helped equip him for providing guidance and support for those facing persecution.

CHURCH TRADITION: Suggests that Silas may have been one of the 70 followers of Jesus that were sent out by the Master. Its also by some that Silas and Peter had made a missionary journey through Asia Minor.

What lessons can you learn for YOUR life?