

Point 1: We plan our way, but the Lord guides our steps.

Is 46:9-10 for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,
¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done,
saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

Proverbs 16:9 The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

Point 2: We do the speaking, but the Lord does the saving.

- Hear the word of the **gospel** and believe 15:7
- Preached the **gospel** to that city 14:21
- Bore witness to the **word of His grace** 14:5
- The **message** of this salvation 13:26
- Astonished at the **teaching** of the **Lord** 13:12
- They **proclaimed** the **word** of **God** 13:8
- Declare to you a **message** by which you will **be saved** 11:14
- He **proclaimed Jesus** 9:20
- He told the **good news about Jesus** 8:35
- They were **preaching** the **word** 8:4
- They **proclaimed** to them **Christ** 8:5
- **Speak** the **Word** with all boldness 4:29

"This is the unifying power of the gospel. It would be hard to imagine a more disparate group than the businesswoman, the slave girl and the jailer. Racially, socially and psychologically they were worlds apart. Yet all three were changed by the same gospel and were welcomed into the same church."
John Stott, *The Message of Acts (The Bible Speaks Today)* IVP Press, 1990. 3. 1: 3-8. ..



Discussion/Application

1. Do you have a personal testimony about a time when the “Spirit of Jesus” (16:7) worked in your life to change your plans, ultimately working for your good and God’s glory?
2. Would you describe yourself as someone who easily embraces the sovereignty of God even when your own plans are thwarted? If not, how can you cultivate a love for God’s sovereign hand?
3. Has the Lord “closed a door” in your life recently, changing the plans you had made for yourself? If so, have you been tempted to sulk, or to contend for your own plans? Have you seen other doors he is opening for you instead?
4. How does Paul & Silas’ godly response to their change of plans (16:25) encourage you?
5. Is there any circumstance in your life that God may be using to sovereignly position you to reach someone who needs to hear the gospel?