

PAUL

THE APOSTLE

THE SECOND JOURNEY, CA. 49 – 52 A.D.

MARGOT MORRELL



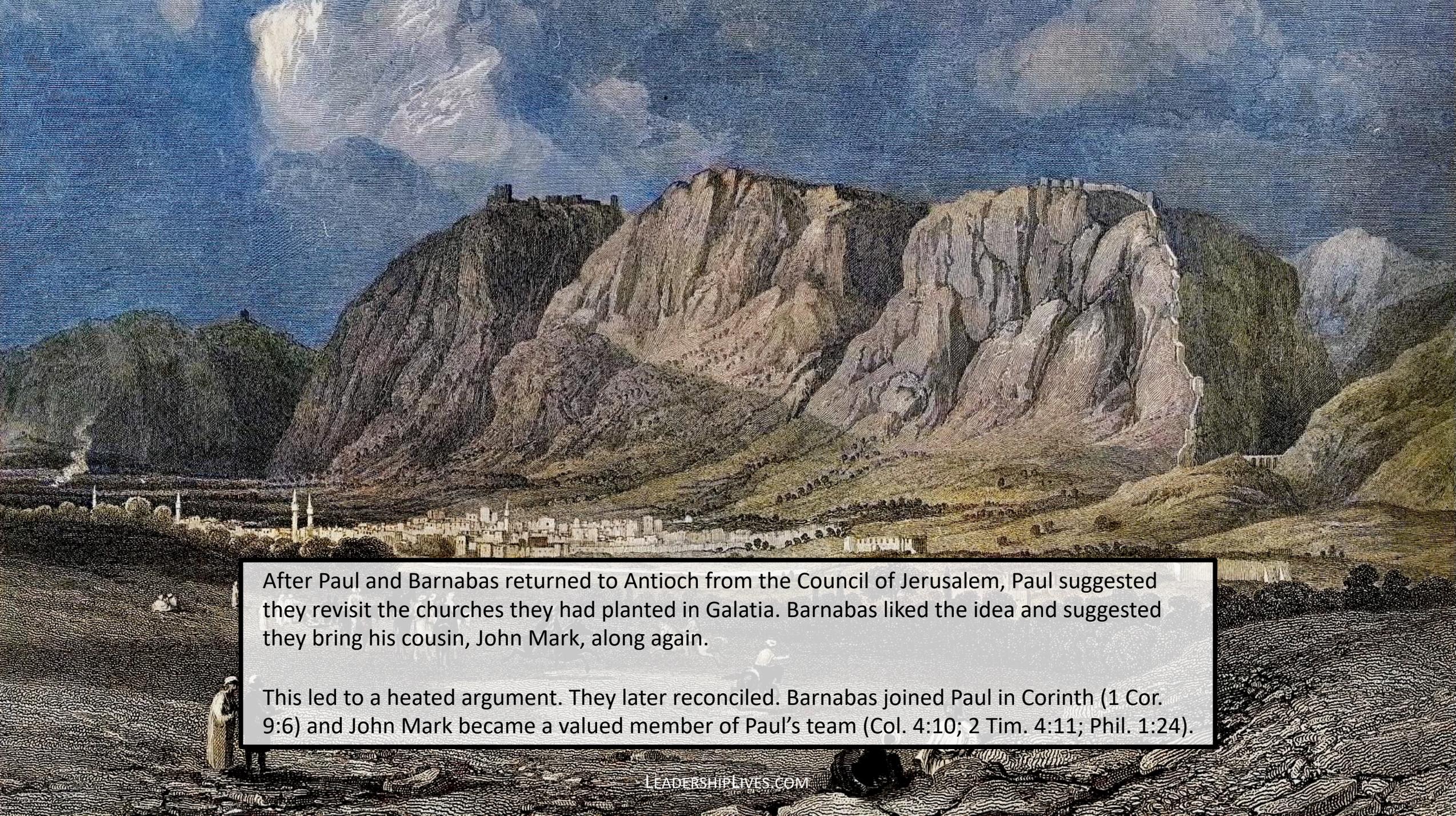
The Council of Jerusalem, 49 AD

“This letter is from the apostles and elders, your brothers in Jerusalem. It is written to the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia. Greetings!

We understand that some men from here have troubled you and upset you with their teaching, but we did not send them! So, we decided, having come to complete agreement, to send you official representatives, along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are sending Judas and Silas to confirm what we have decided concerning your question.

For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay no greater burden on you than these few requirements: You must abstain from eating food offered to idols, from consuming blood or the meat of strangled animals, and from sexual immorality. If you do this, you will do well. Farewell.”

The messengers went at once to Antioch, where they called a general meeting of the believers and delivered the letter. And there was great joy throughout the church that day as they read this encouraging message. Acts 15:22-31



After Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch from the Council of Jerusalem, Paul suggested they revisit the churches they had planted in Galatia. Barnabas liked the idea and suggested they bring his cousin, John Mark, along again.

This led to a heated argument. They later reconciled. Barnabas joined Paul in Corinth (1 Cor. 9:6) and John Mark became a valued member of Paul's team (Col. 4:10; 2 Tim. 4:11; Phil. 1:24).



The result was that Barnabas and John Mark sailed for Cyprus and Paul chose Silas to accompany him on his second missionary journey. Like Paul, Silas was a Roman citizen. Paul and Silas set off on the Roman road to Galatia via the Cilician Gates.

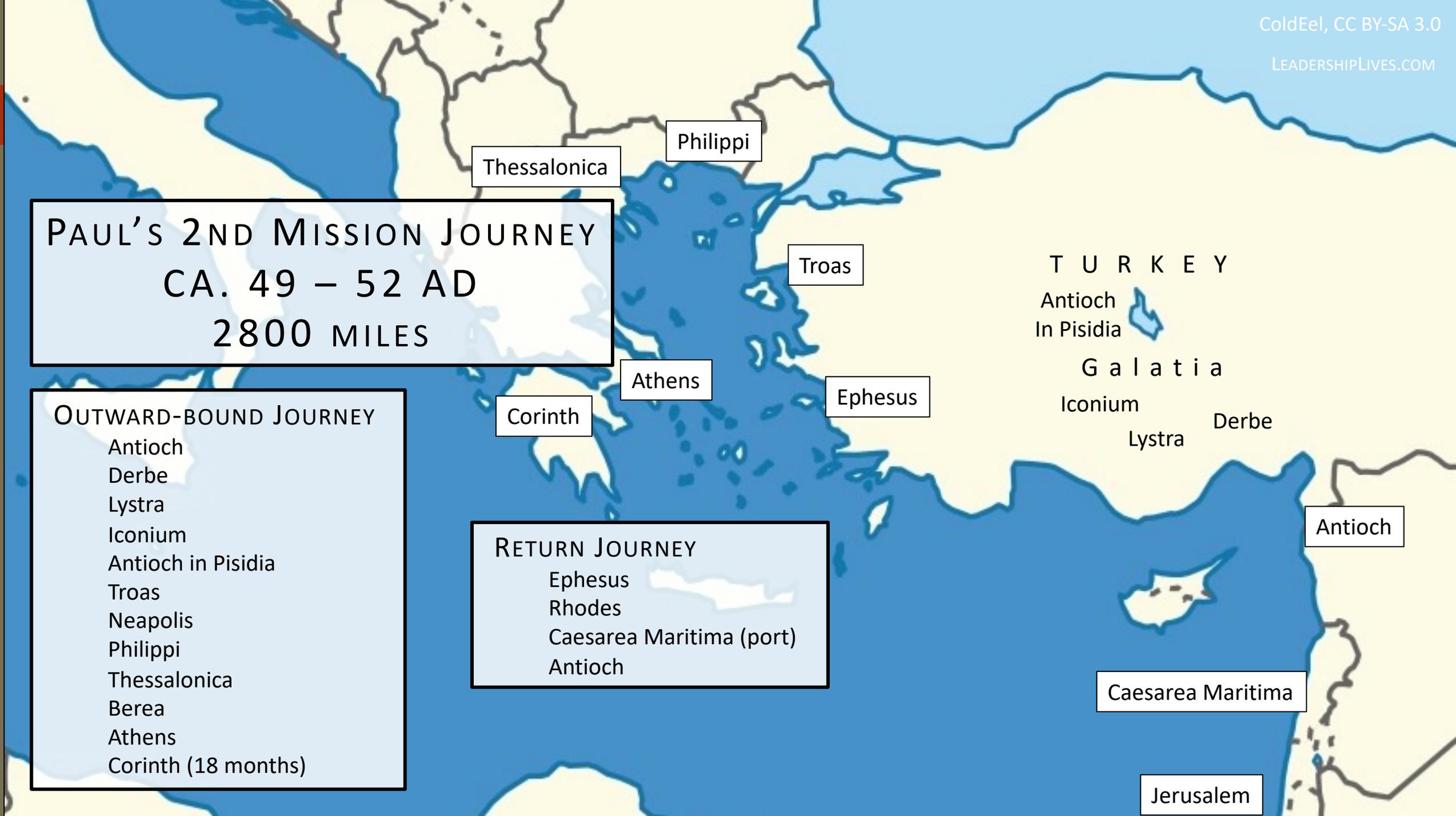


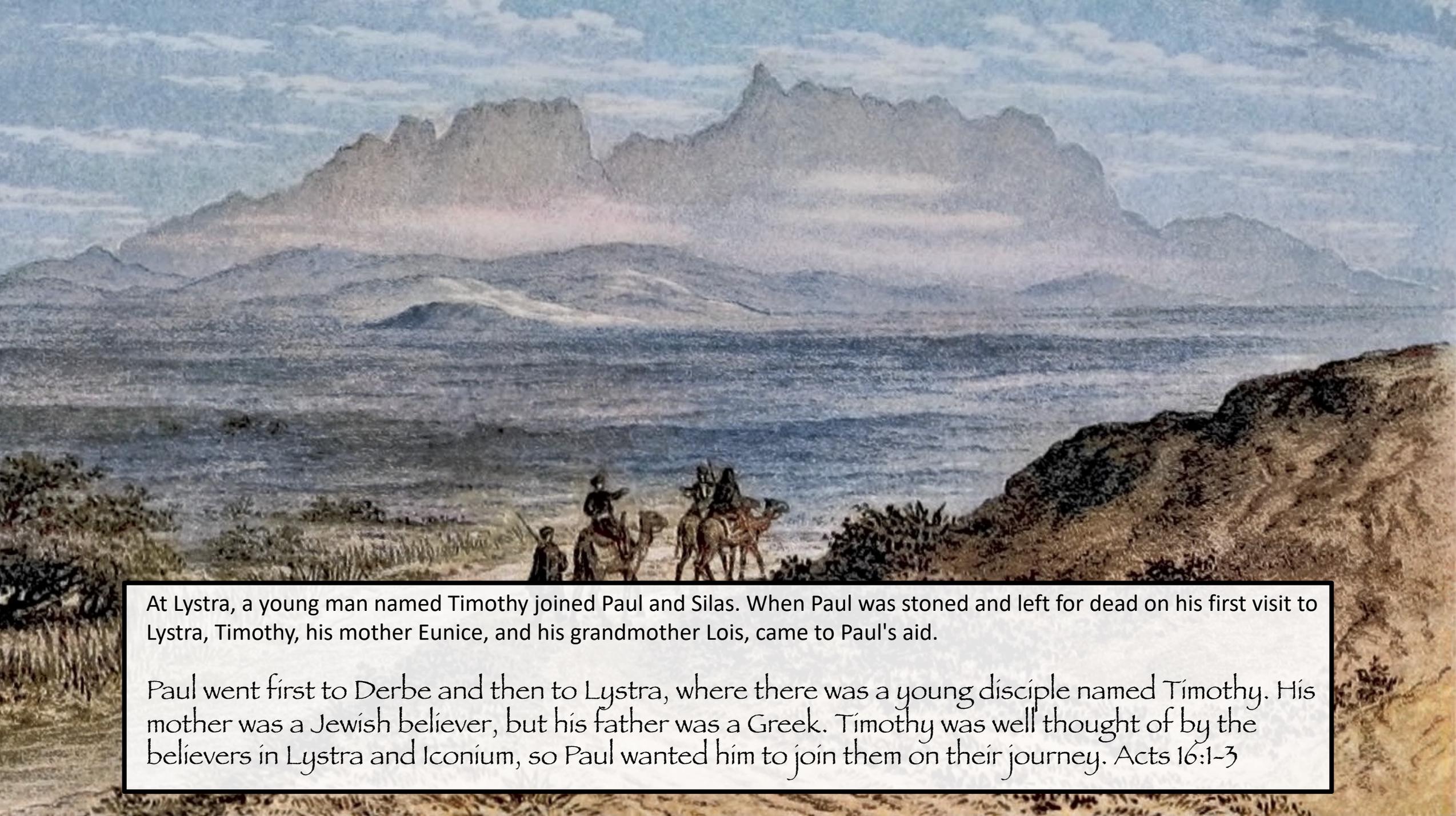
On this journey, Paul brought along the letter from the apostles and elders in Jerusalem to verify his teachings. Silas served as a living testament to Paul's mission from the apostles in Jerusalem.

PAUL'S 2ND MISSION JOURNEY
CA. 49 – 52 AD
2800 MILES

- OUTWARD-BOUND JOURNEY**
- Antioch
 - Derbe
 - Lystra
 - Iconium
 - Antioch in Pisidia
 - Troas
 - Neapolis
 - Philippi
 - Thessalonica
 - Berea
 - Athens
 - Corinth (18 months)

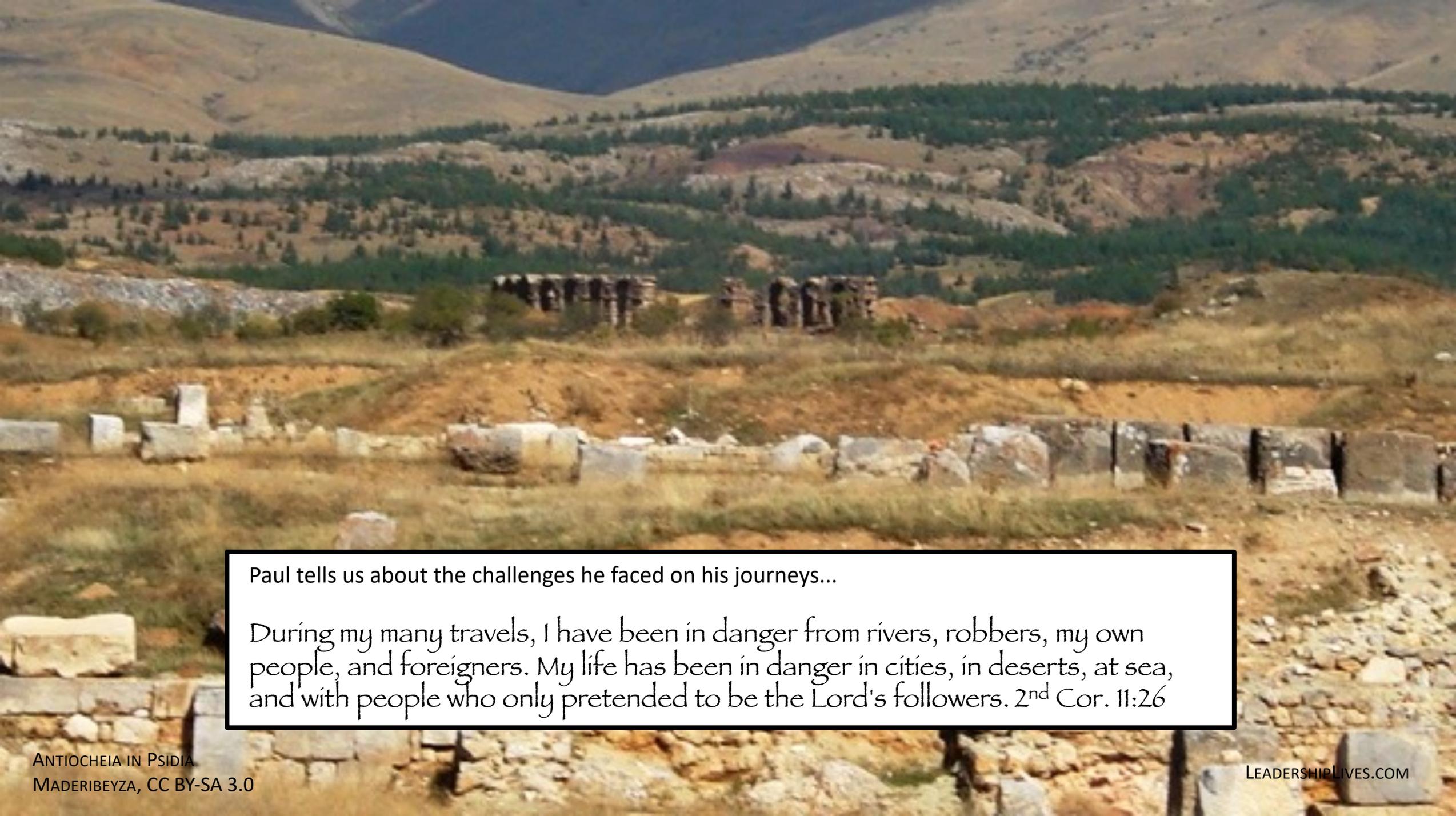
- RETURN JOURNEY**
- Ephesus
 - Rhodes
 - Caesarea Maritima (port)
 - Antioch





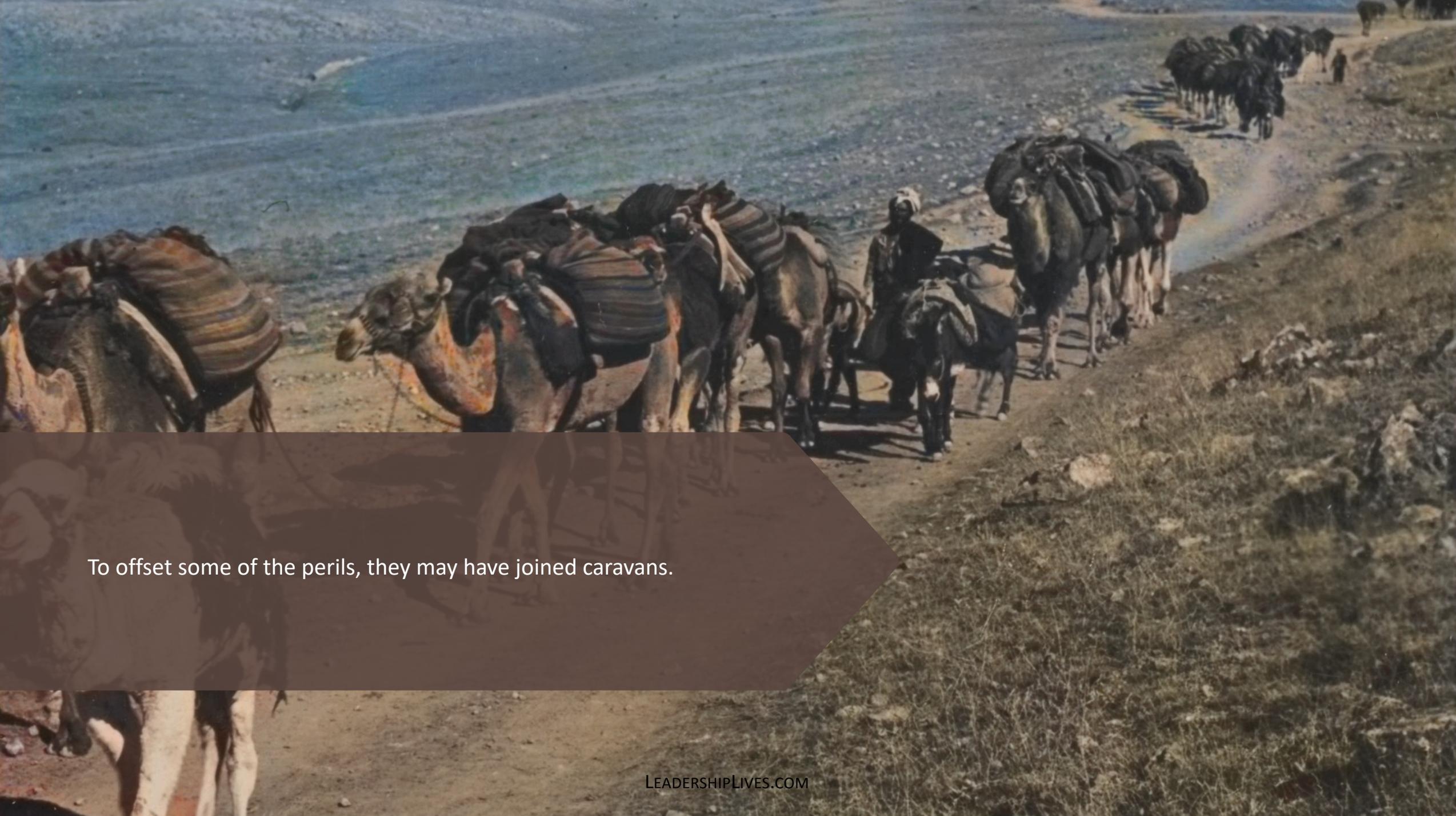
At Lystra, a young man named Timothy joined Paul and Silas. When Paul was stoned and left for dead on his first visit to Lystra, Timothy, his mother Eunice, and his grandmother Lois, came to Paul's aid.

Paul went first to Derbe and then to Lystra, where there was a young disciple named Timothy. His mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was a Greek. Timothy was well thought of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium, so Paul wanted him to join them on their journey. Acts 16:1-3



Paul tells us about the challenges he faced on his journeys...

During my many travels, I have been in danger from rivers, robbers, my own people, and foreigners. My life has been in danger in cities, in deserts, at sea, and with people who only pretended to be the Lord's followers. 2nd Cor. 11:26



To offset some of the perils, they may have joined caravans.



Troas

Ephesus

Antioch
In Pisidia

Iconium

Lystra

Derbe

After visiting Derbe and Lystra, they moved on to Iconium and Antioch in Pisidia. Then Paul decided to continue west. They headed towards Byzantium (today Istanbul) - intending to travel through Bithynia – but something stopped them.

Antioch

Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time.

Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again, the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there. So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas.

Acts 16:6-8





Troas (Troy) was an important port like Thessalonica, Corinth and Ephesus. It was an ancient kingdom where the beautiful Helen triggered the Trojan War celebrated in Homer's Iliad.

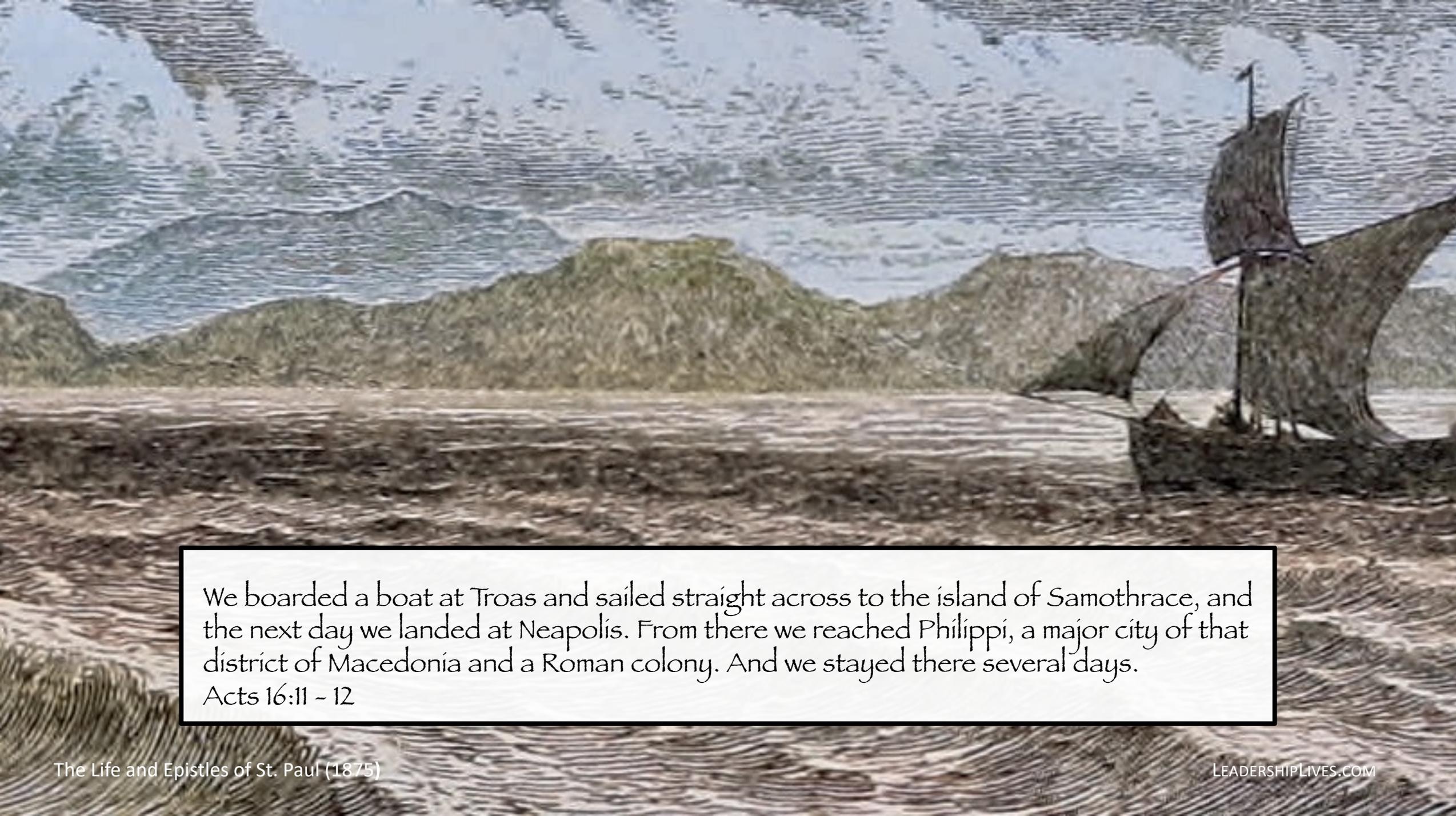
In Troas, Paul had a vision.

A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us!”

So, we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.

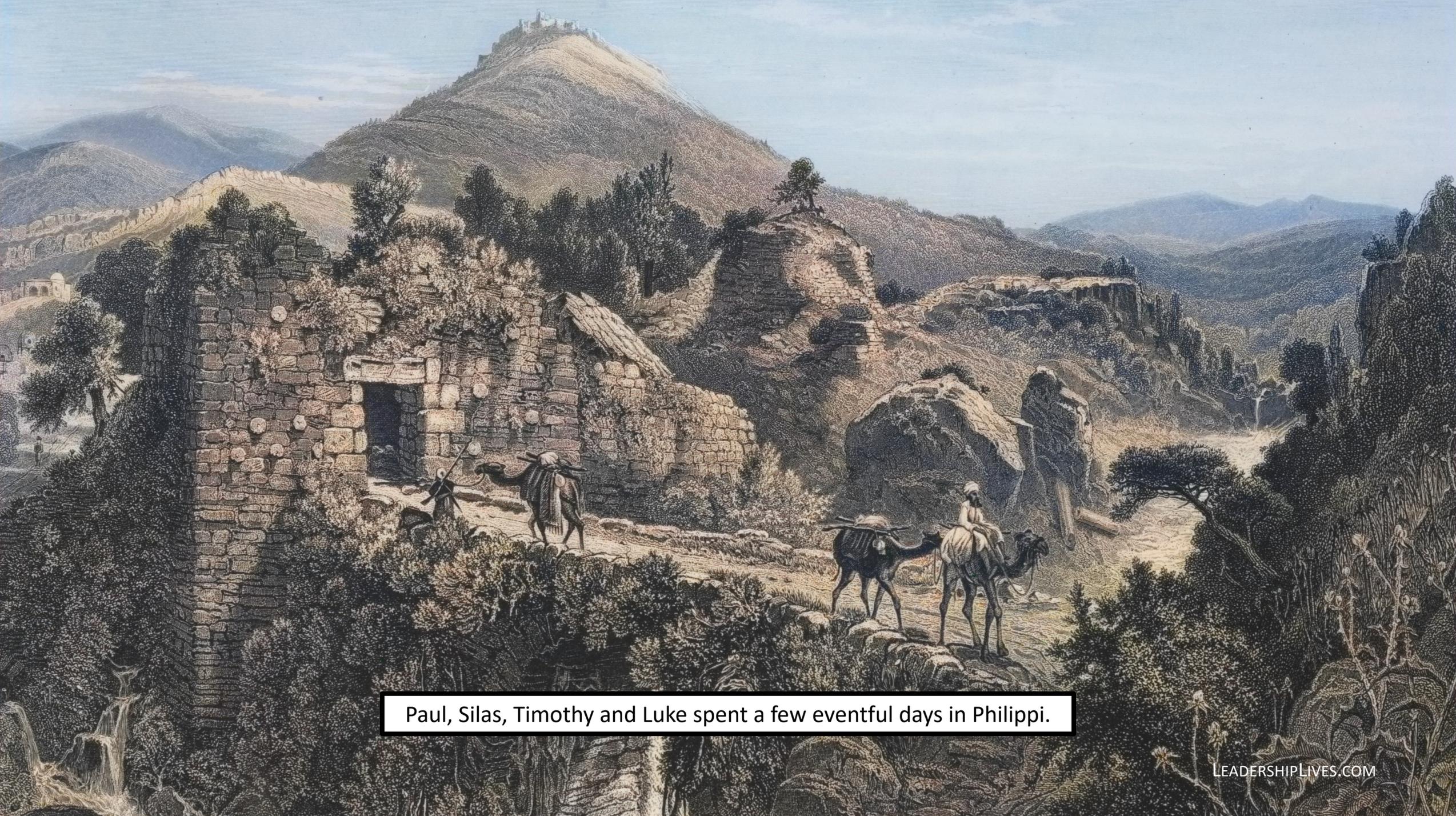
Acts 16:9-10



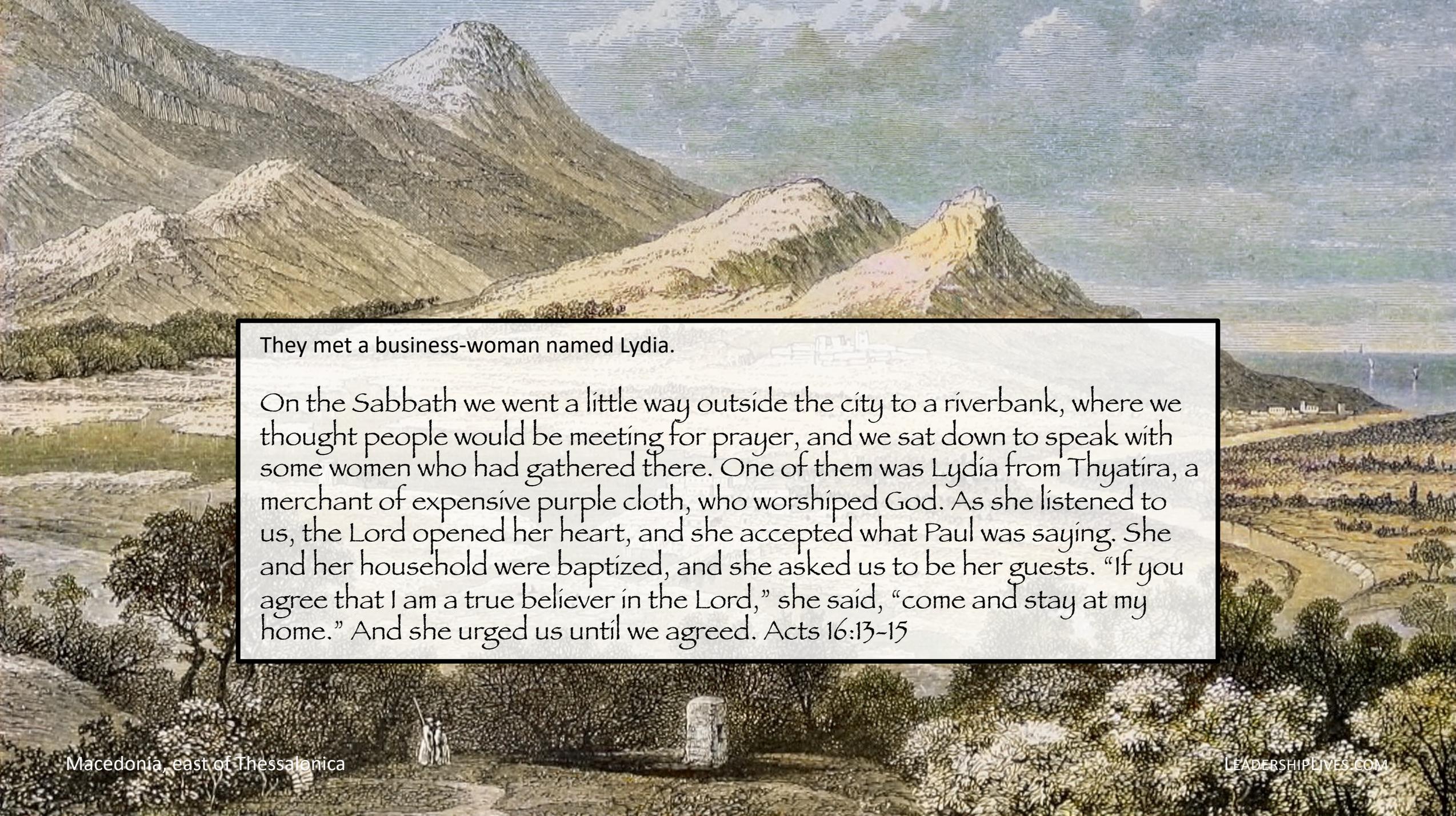
A painting of a wooden sailing ship with a large, dark, triangular sail on a choppy sea. In the background, there are green, hilly mountains under a blue sky. The overall style is that of a 19th-century oil painting.

We boarded a boat at Troas and sailed straight across to the island of Samothrace, and the next day we landed at Neapolis. From there we reached Philippi, a major city of that district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. And we stayed there several days.

Acts 16:11 - 12



Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke spent a few eventful days in Philippi.



They met a business-woman named Lydia.

On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. She and her household were baptized, and she asked us to be her guests. "If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my home." And she urged us until we agreed. Acts 16:13-15

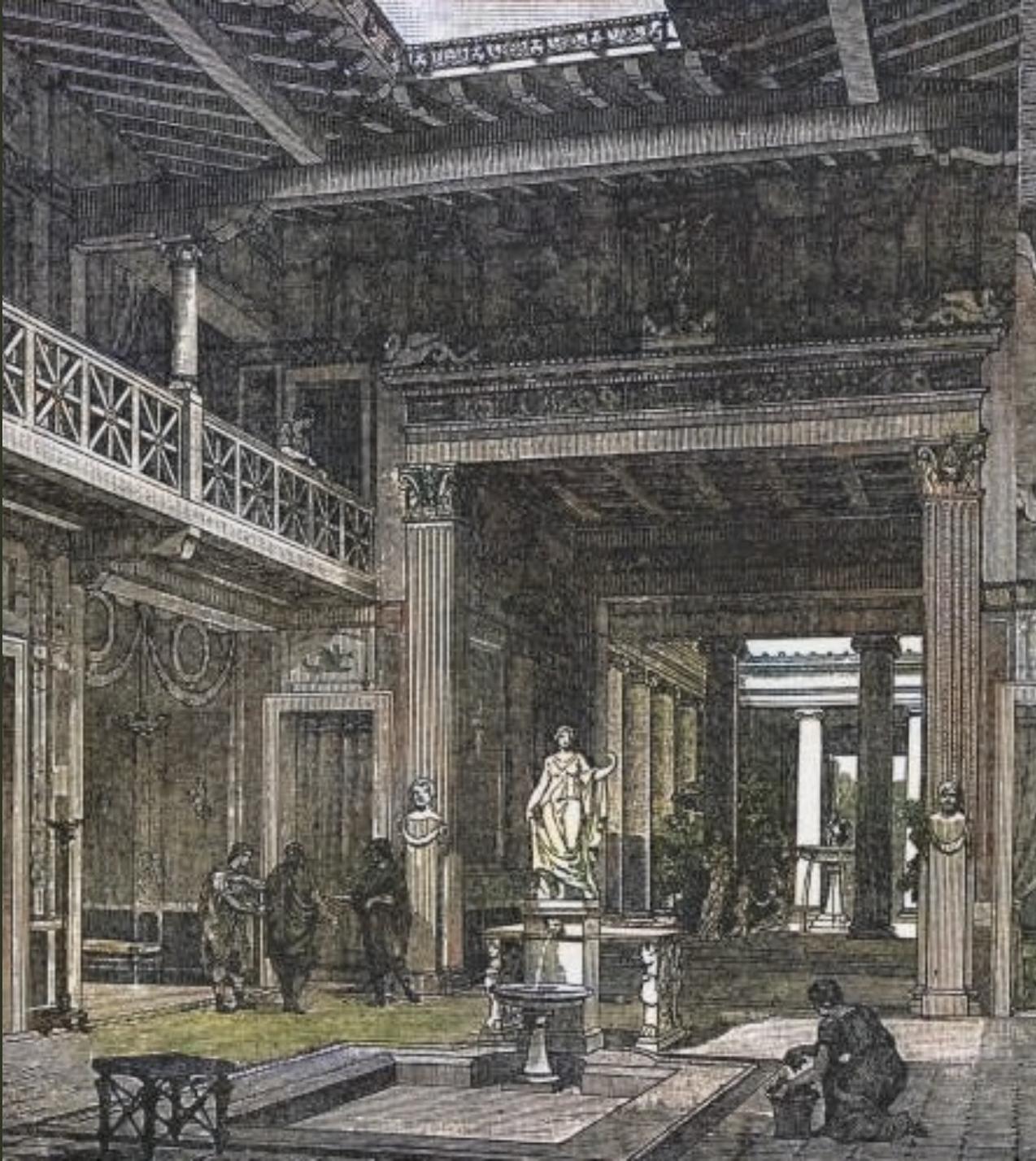
Lydia and her household were Paul's first converts to Christianity in Europe.

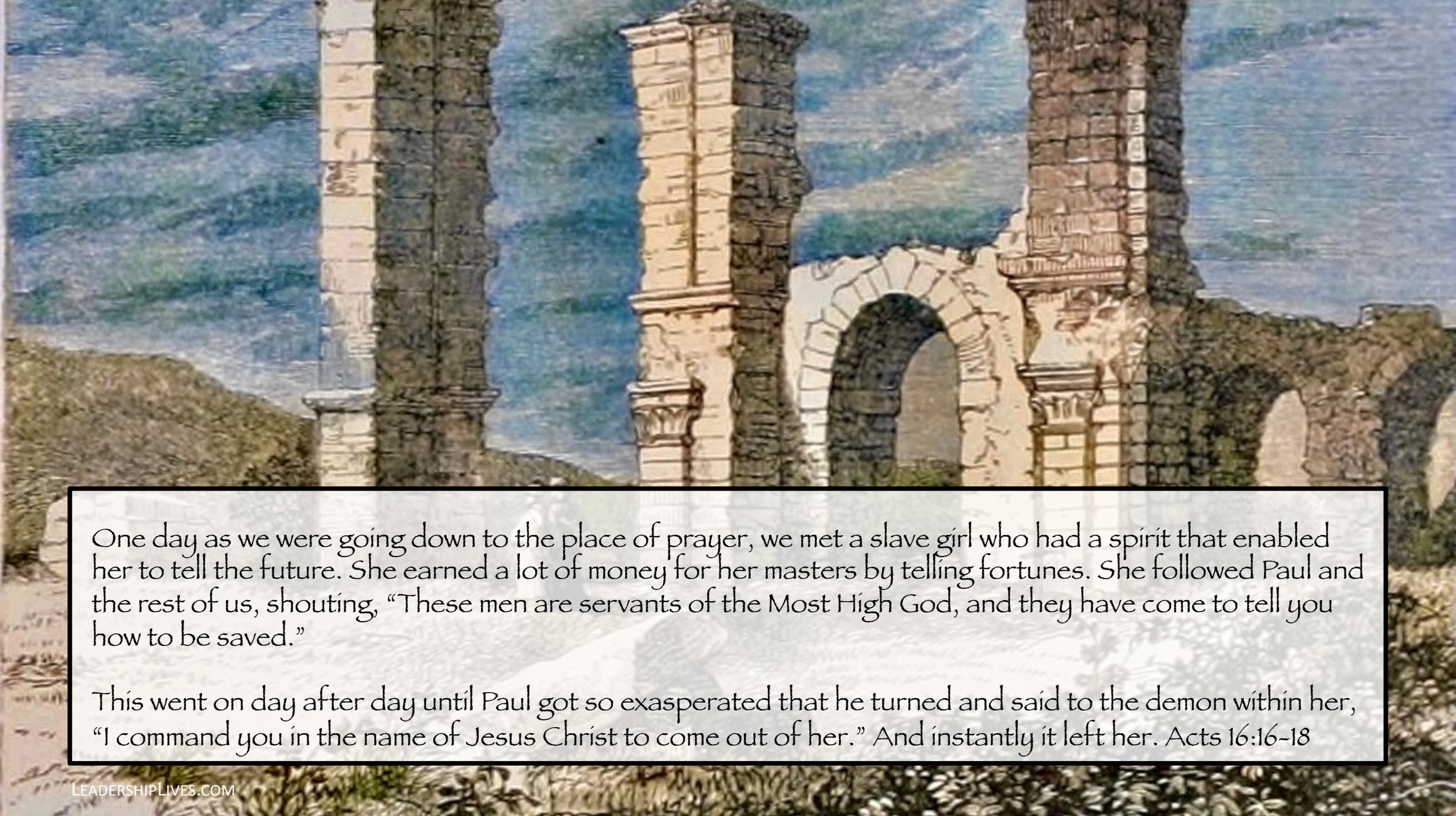


Years later, from a prison in Rome, Paul wrote to thank the Philippians for their exceptional generosity...

It was good of you to help me when I was having such a hard time. My friends at Philippi, you remember what it was like when I started preaching the good news in Macedonia. After I left there, you were the only church that became my partner by giving blessings and by receiving them in return. Even when I was in Thessalonica, you helped me more than once.

Phil. 4:14 – 16





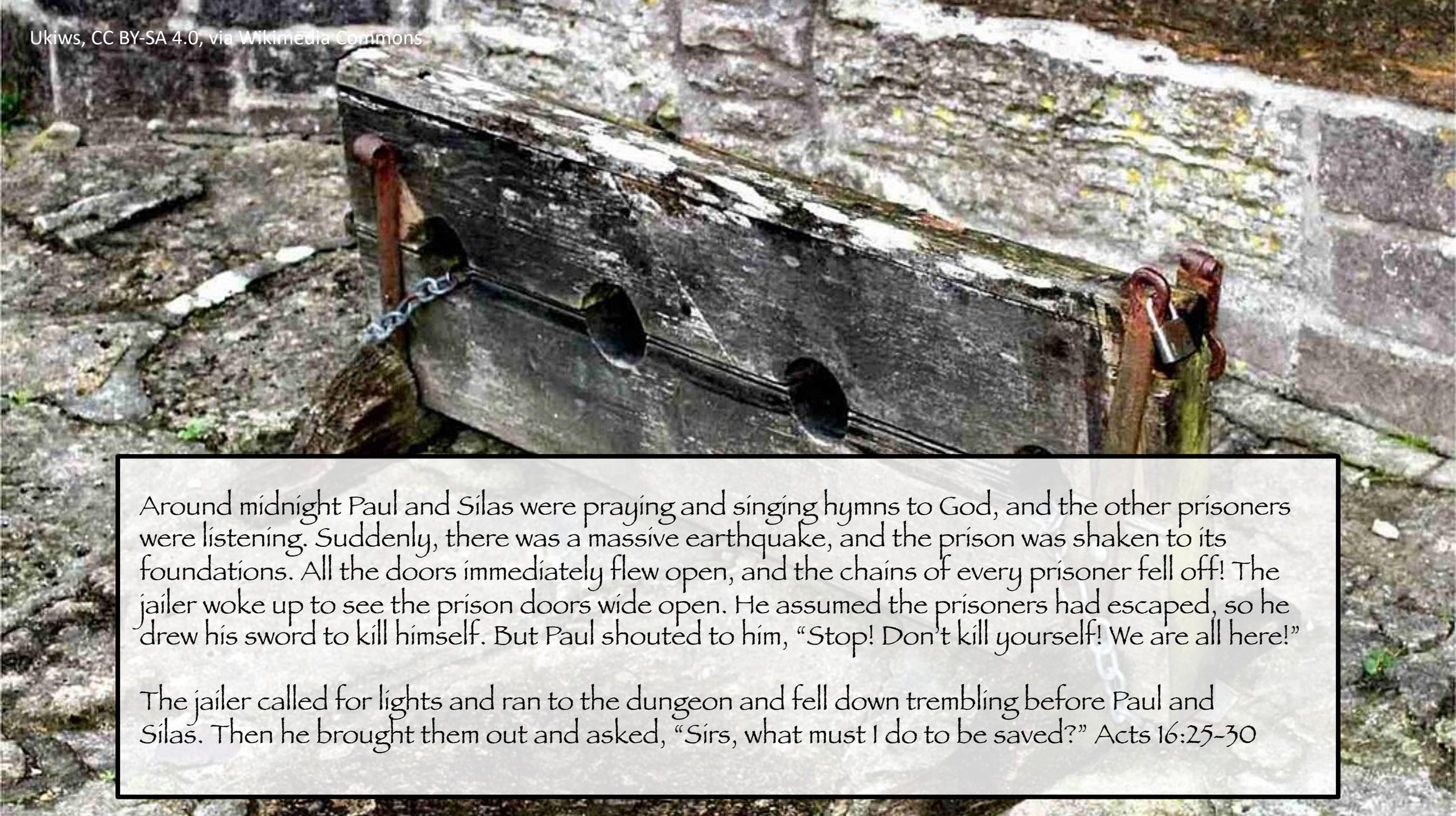
One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit that enabled her to tell the future. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling fortunes. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved.”

This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And instantly it left her. Acts 16:16-18



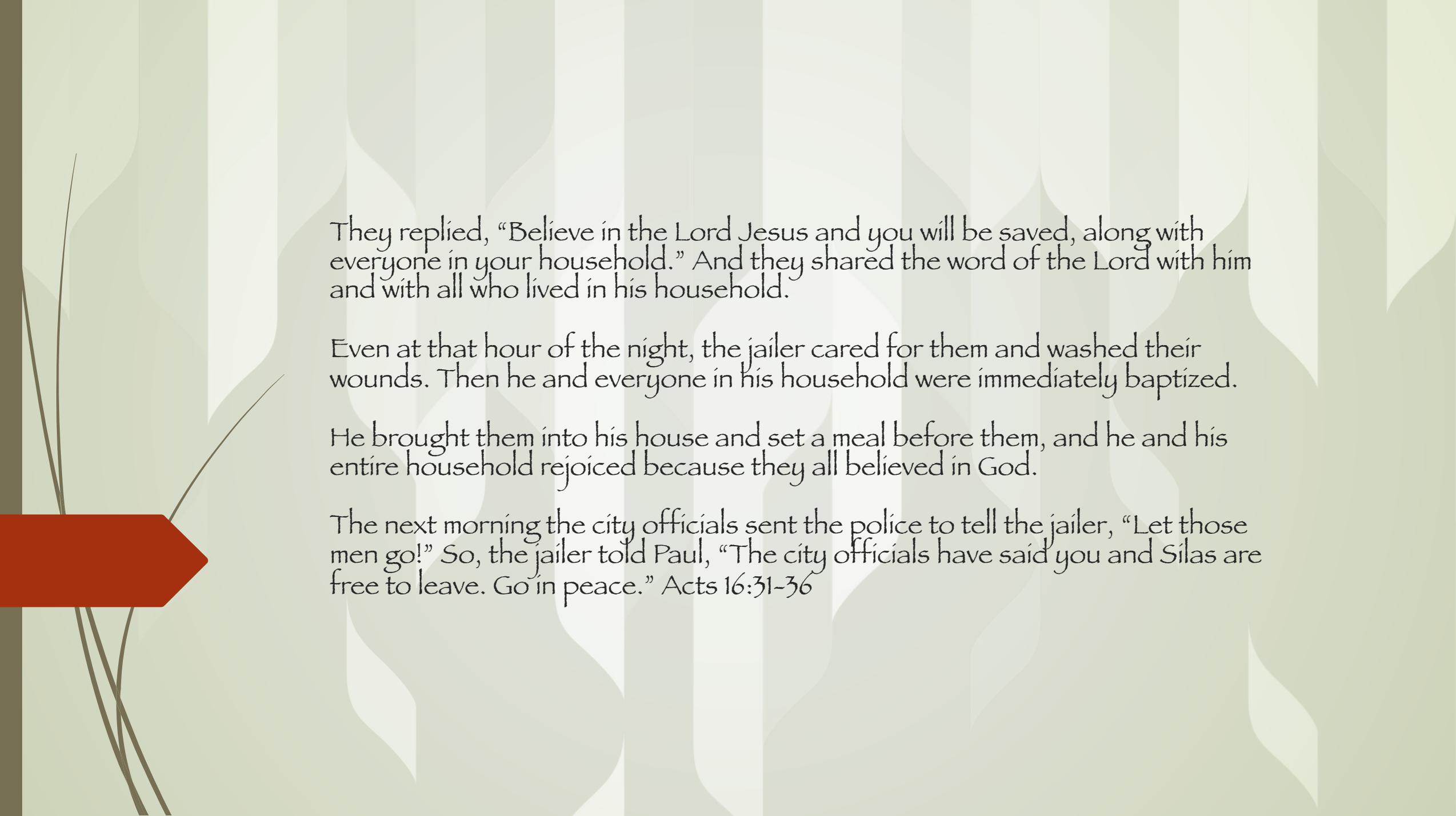
Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace. "The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews!" they shouted to the city officials. "They are teaching customs that are illegal for us Romans to practice."

A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. So, the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks. Acts 16:19-24

A close-up photograph of a heavy, dark wooden door or chest. The wood is weathered and shows signs of age. On the left side, a metal chain is attached to a bolt. On the right side, there are several metal bolts and a padlock. The door is set against a stone wall. The background is slightly out of focus, showing more of the stone wall and some greenery.

Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. But Paul shouted to him, “Stop! Don’t kill yourself! We are all here!”

The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” Acts 16:25-30

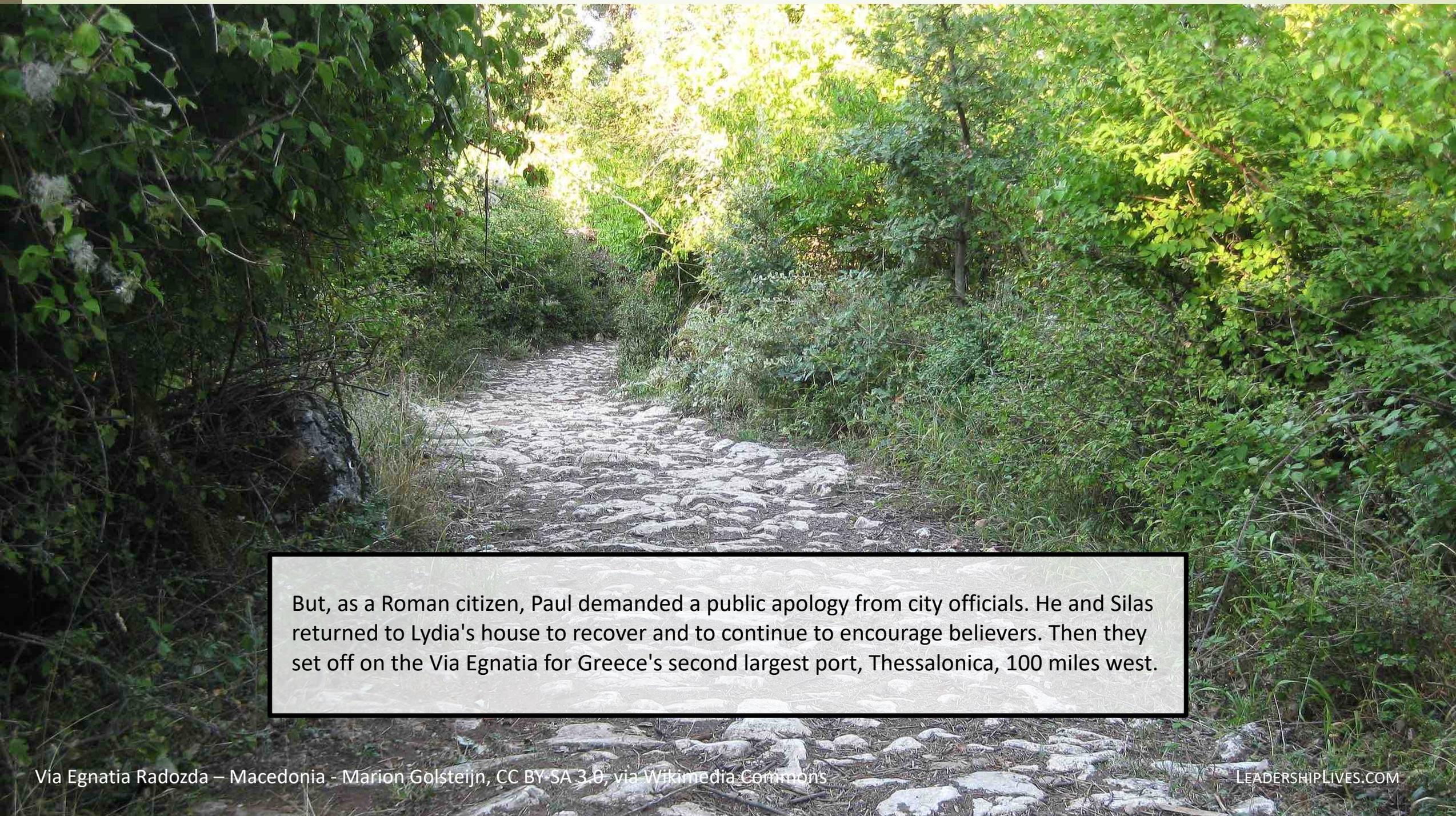


They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household.

Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized.

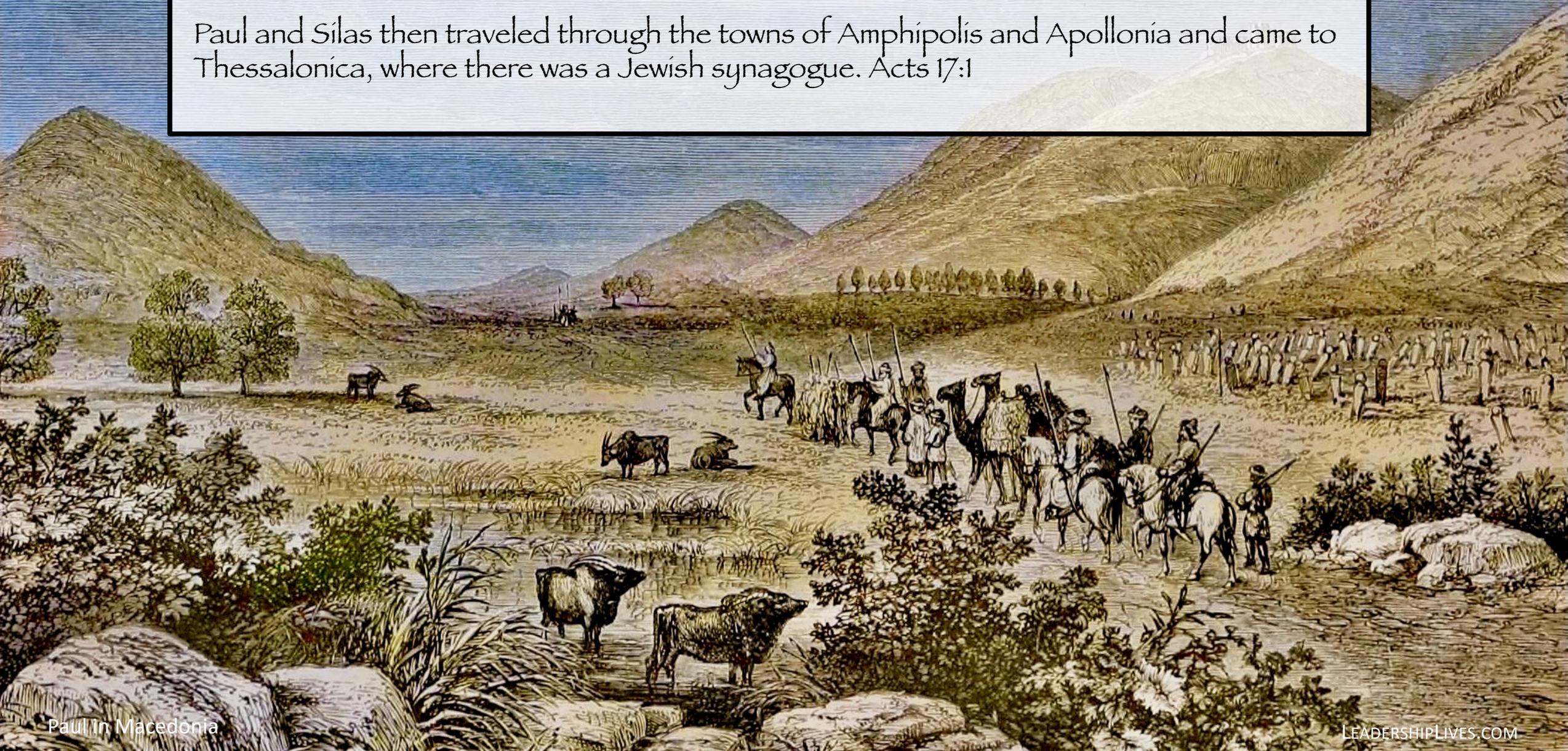
He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.

The next morning the city officials sent the police to tell the jailer, "Let those men go!" So, the jailer told Paul, "The city officials have said you and Silas are free to leave. Go in peace." Acts 16:31-36

A photograph of a narrow, stone-paved path winding through a dense forest. The path is made of irregular, light-colored stones and leads into the distance. The surrounding vegetation is lush and green, with sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a dappled light effect on the path and foliage. The path appears to be an ancient or historical route, possibly the Via Egnatia mentioned in the text.

But, as a Roman citizen, Paul demanded a public apology from city officials. He and Silas returned to Lydia's house to recover and to continue to encourage believers. Then they set off on the Via Egnatia for Greece's second largest port, Thessalonica, 100 miles west.

Paul and Silas then traveled through the towns of Amphipolis and Apollonia and came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. Acts 17:1





As was Paul's custom, he went to the *synagogue* service, and for three Sabbaths in a row he used the Scriptures to reason with the people. He explained the prophecies and proved that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead. He said, "This Jesus I'm telling you about is the Messiah."

And some of them were persuaded and threw in their lot with Paul and Silas, as well as both a large complement of Greek worshippers and not a few of the most prominent women.

Acts 17:1-4





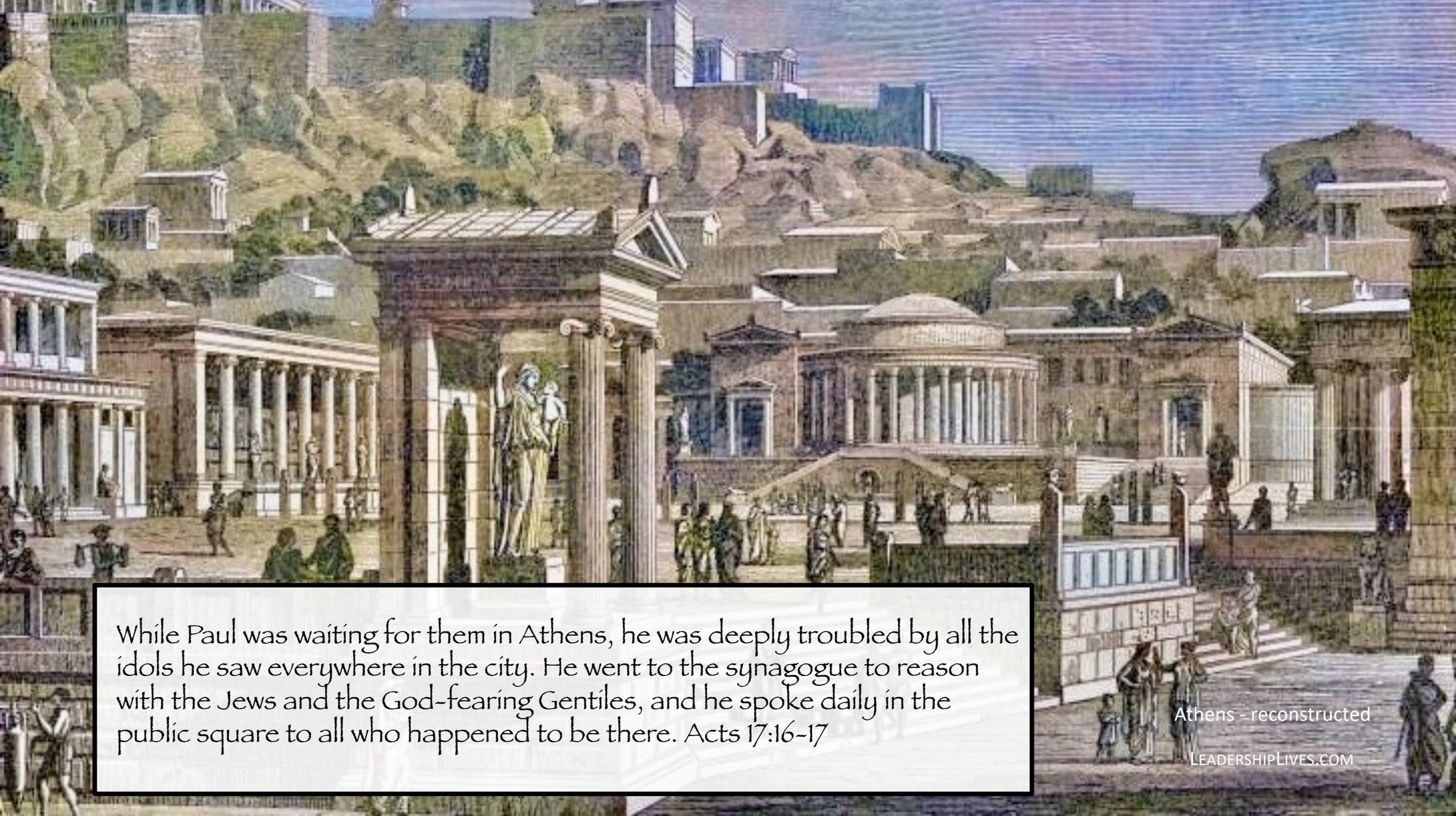
Following a now familiar pattern, some people were jealous and organized troublemakers to form a mob and start a riot. They attacked the home where Paul and Silas were staying.

That very night the believers sent Paul and Silas to Berea. When they arrived there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth. As a result, many Jews believed, as did many of the prominent Greek women and men.

But when some Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God in Berea, they went there and stirred up trouble. The believers acted at once, sending Paul on to the coast, while Silas and Timothy remained behind.

Those escorting Paul went with him all the way to Athens; then they returned to Berea with instructions for Silas and Timothy to hurry and join him.

Acts 17:10-15



While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city. He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and he spoke daily in the public square to all who happened to be there. Acts 17:16-17

Athens - reconstructed

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They brought Paul before a council called the Areopagus, and said, "Tell us what your new teaching is all about. We have heard you say some strange things, and we want to know what you mean."

More than anything else the people of Athens and the foreigners living there loved to hear and to talk about anything new. Acts 17:19-21

And Paul said,

This God made the world and everything in it. He is Lord of heaven and earth, and he doesn't live in temples built by human hands.

He doesn't need help from anyone. He gives life, breath, and everything else to all people.

From one person God made all nations who live on earth, and he decided when and where every nation would be.

Acts 17:24-26

Raphael
Paul Preaching in Athens, ca. 1515

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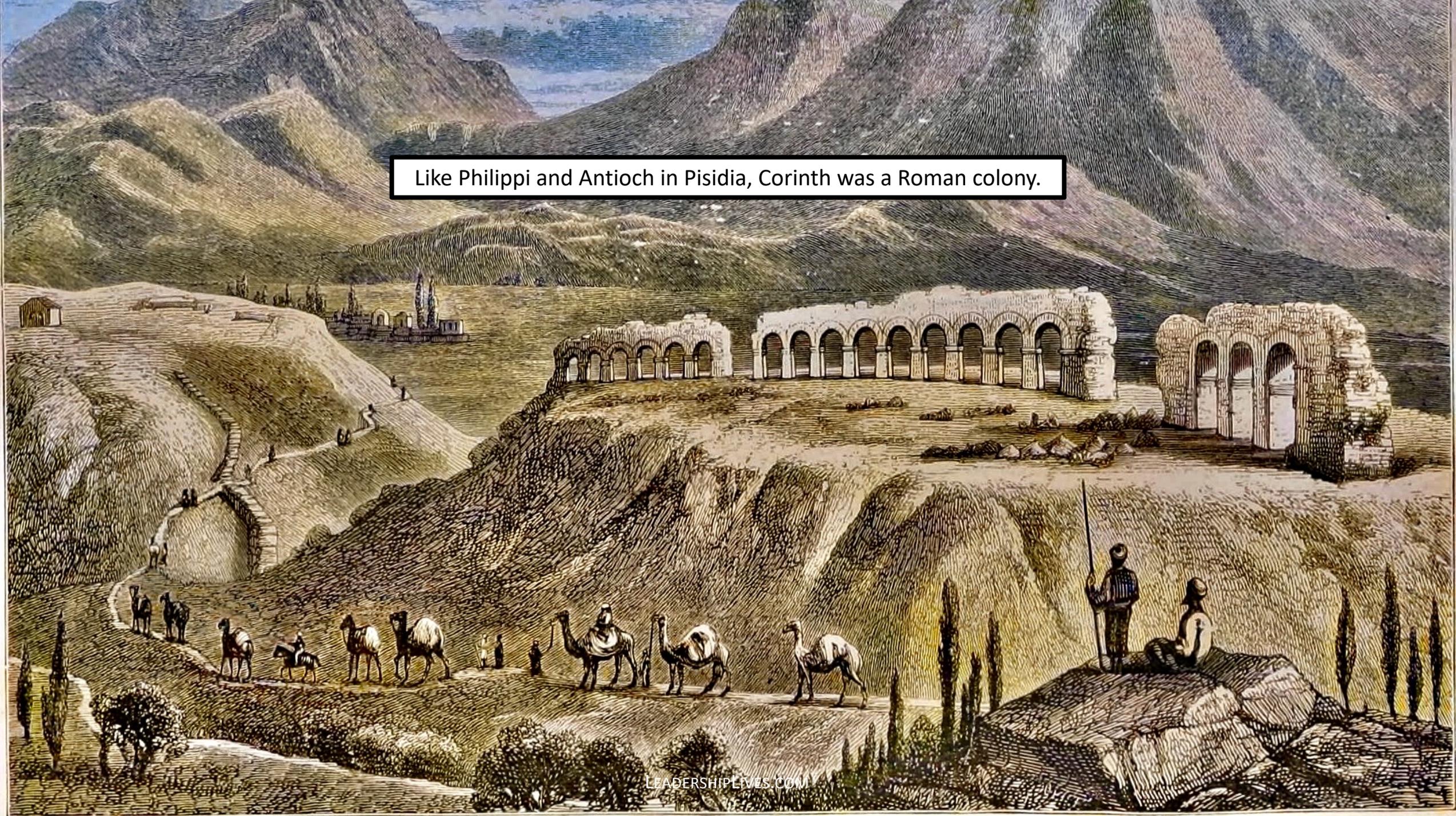


When Paul left the council meeting, some of the men put their faith in the Lord and went with Paul. One of them was a council member named Dionysius. A woman named Damaris and several others also put their faith in the Lord. Acts 17:33-34

Then Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. Acts 18:1

Raphael, Study for Paul Preaching in Athens, ca. 1515

Like Philippi and Antioch in Pisidia, Corinth was a Roman colony.

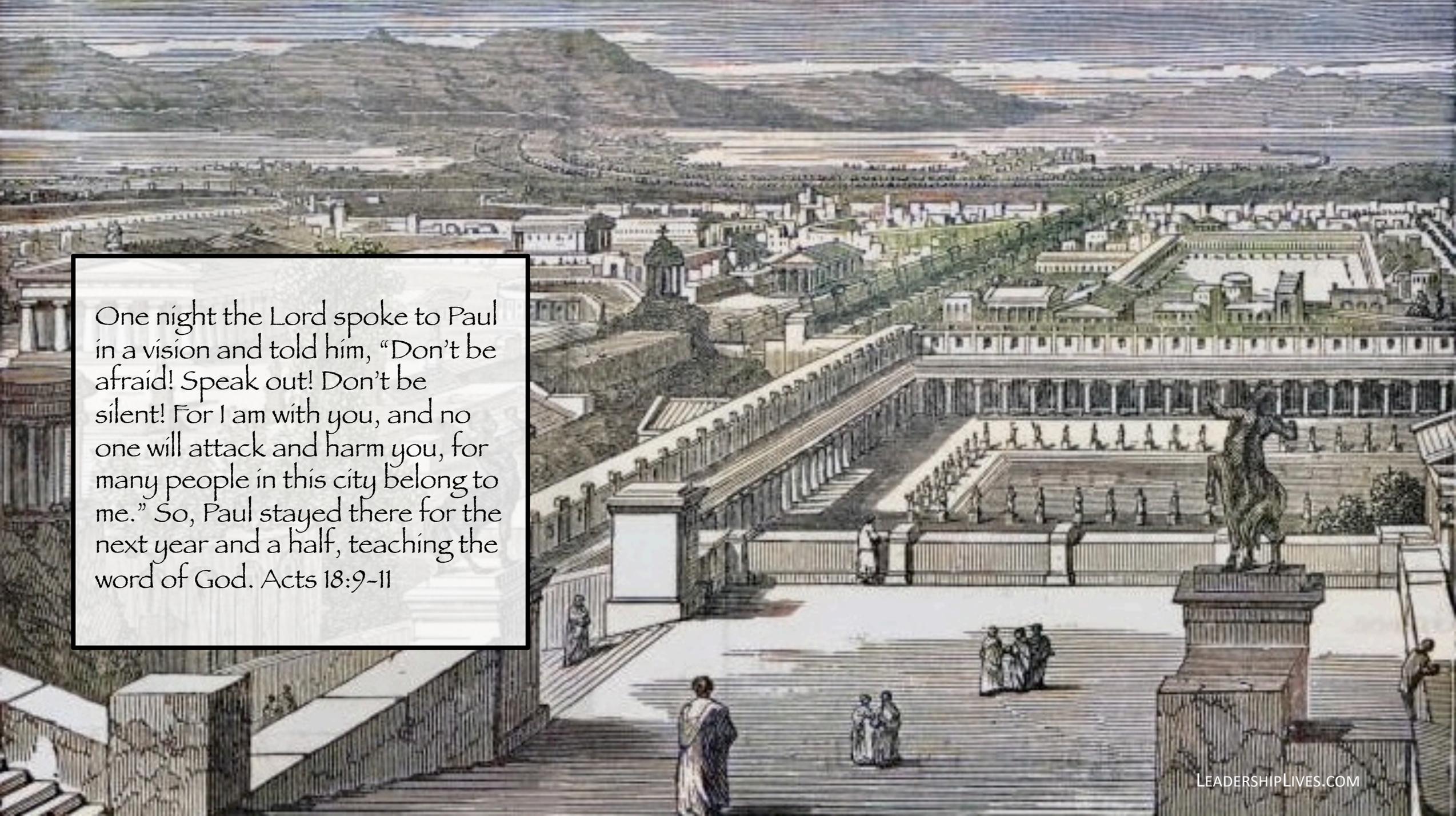


A satellite image of Corinth, Greece, showing a narrow land bridge between two bodies of water. The land is green and brown, with a network of roads and rivers. The water is dark blue. The land bridge is a narrow strip of land connecting two larger landmasses.

Fifty miles west of Athens, Corinth was strategically situated on a 5-mile land bridge between two ports and the northern and southern regions of Greece. The city was a thriving center of commercial success and influence.

NASA: Corinth from Space

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One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision and told him, "Don't be afraid! Speak out! Don't be silent! For I am with you, and no one will attack and harm you, for many people in this city belong to me." So, Paul stayed there for the next year and a half, teaching the word of God. Acts 18:9-11



In Corinth, Paul met fellow tentmakers, Aquila and Priscilla, who had recently arrived in Corinth from Rome. For a year and a half, they lived together and worked together.

Each Sabbath found Paul at the synagogue, trying to convince the Jews and Greeks alike. And after Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul spent all his time preaching the word. He testified to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. But when they opposed and insulted him, Paul shook the dust from his clothes and said, “Your blood is upon your own heads—I am innocent. From now on I will go preach to the Gentiles.”

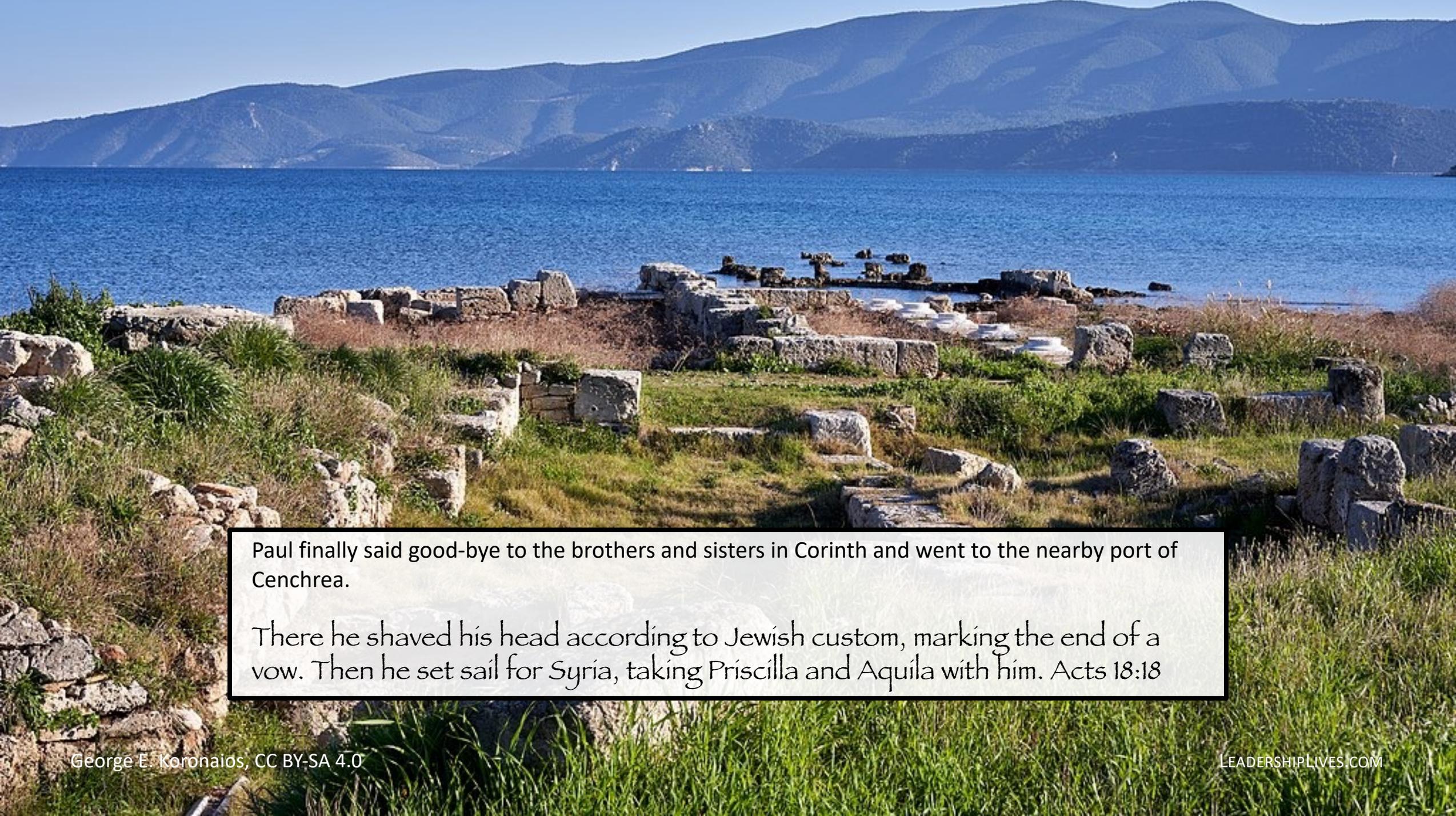
Acts 18:4-6

From Corinth, Paul wrote letters of encouragement to the new believers in Thessalonica.

...you have become an example to all the believers in Greece—throughout both Macedonia and Achaia.

And now the word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God. We don't need to tell them about it, for they keep talking about the wonderful welcome you gave us and how you turned away from idols to serve the living and true God. 1 Thess. 1:7-9





Paul finally said good-bye to the brothers and sisters in Corinth and went to the nearby port of Cenchrea.

There he shaved his head according to Jewish custom, marking the end of a vow. Then he set sail for Syria, taking Priscilla and Aquila with him. Acts 18:18

They stopped first at the port of Ephesus, where Paul left the others behind. Acts 18:19
Paul promised to return and two years later, he did.



Ephesus, ca. 1880



Points to Ponder about Paul's Second Journey

- ▶ Did Barnabas and John Mark return to Cyprus to deliver a copy of Mark's gospel to Sergius Paulus who had sparked Mark's project by asking thoughtful questions?
- ▶ How did the Spirit "prevent" Paul and his companions from going to Bithynia? Could it have been an earthquake?
- ▶ Why might the Spirit have prevented Paul and his companions from going to Byzantium / Constantinople / Istanbul? (3 names for the same place).
- ▶ The squabble between Paul and Barnabas demonstrates that Paul was a human being with flaws – he had a temper. He also vastly underestimated the value of what John Mark did - recording Peter's eyewitness accounts of Jesus. What can we learn from that?
- ▶ Paul was adamant that they needed a team of three people for these missions. Why do you think that was?



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