



**“Real Change
in a City”
A Study of Acts 16:6-40**

When Jesus brings enduring change in a city, it happens according to the Spirit, which works according to the Father’s **timing** and **strategy**.
(see Matthew 24:35-37; John 5:19; Luke 22:42)

When the Church joins God in bringing lasting change, it happens because they:

1. Learn the **dance** of discernment & focus.
(See James 4:13-15; Prov. 16:9; Romans 8:14; 2 Cor. 2:12-14)

“A strategic thinker who listens closely to the Lord of the harvest is a powerful agent in God’s Kingdom.”
- Neil Cole, “Journeys to Significance: Charting
A Leadership Course From the Life of Paul”

“*Diaponeomai*” (v.18) = “to be strongly irked or provoked at something or someone.”

2. Extend the Gospel to their **Oikos**.
(see Acts 16:15, 32-34; also Acts 10, 18:8 and 1 Cor. 16:15)

God’s first Century “Oikos” Strategy = the incarnational extension of the Gospel to one entire household at a time, including close family, but also servants, business partners and close friends who have a common identity and are within one circle of influence. (See Luke 10)

3. Count it **joy** to not take the cheap route.
(see Phil. 1:27-30; Hebrews 12:7-11; John 15:1-2; James 1:2-4)

“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

– CS Lewis, “The Problem of Pain”

Better Days Series / week 7

Pastors Doug Melder & Bryan McCabe

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Small Group Questions

1. What is your understanding of “enduring change in a city” and what would that look like to you?
 - A. Read the Scriptures noted in Matthew, John and Luke. What is the significance of even Jesus being uncertain of the Father’s timing and strategy?
 - B. Can you remember a time where you were totally wrong about either timing or strategy?
 - C. Is there a place in your life where you are praying for timing or strategy?
2. Read the passages listed under point number one about discernment and focus.
 - A. What do they more deeply reveal about discernment and focus?
 - B. What are some ways that you or others have discerned things from the Lord? (note – there are numerous answers here but none should lead us outside the bounds of Scripture... if God leads us to something, it’s not going to violate His Word).
3. Who is in your Oikos and what can you be doing to more deeply extend the Gospel to them?
4. What does it mean to not take the cheap route and instead count our discipline and suffering as joy? How are you doing at this?
5. Read the associated scriptures for joy as an encouragement and close in prayer.