



Philippians

AN UNCOMMON JOY

As we begin our study of the book of Philippians, we need to acquaint ourselves with those who were involved in the purpose of the writing of this great book. The idea of have joy under all circumstances may seem impossible but the principles of this little book will revolutionize our thinking. The key is to get our minds in the right place first and then joy will follow. In this first lesson we need to meet the people who made this great blessing possible. First of all and most important is Jesus. We will find that this book encourages us to keep our focus on Him. He is the reason we can have joy under all circumstances. The next person is the first converts to Christianity in Philippi, Lydia and the jailer. Though never mentioned by name in the book of Philippians, this business woman and government employee opened their homes to provide a springboard into the work of the church in that city. They began a great journey for the Lord on the banks of the little river that flowed through the city of Philippi and in a prison cell that had been devastated by an earthquake. Last of all is the apostle Paul. Since his meeting with Jesus in Damascus, Paul was driven to take the gospel to the world (Mark 16:15). When his original plan to preach in Asia and Bithynia was blocked by the Holy Spirit, he is guided to this little but important city to meet the first converts to Christianity that would begin a journey that would last the rest of his life.

Read Acts 16:1-40

1. What kind of emotions are presented when your carefully laid plans are suddenly changed, not a little but completely in a different direction? Acts 16:6-10

2. What do you think was the most important character trait of Lydia and the Philippian jailer? Acts 16:13-15, 25-34

3. How could Paul and Silas be singing after being beaten and imprisoned? Acts 16:25

4. Where did the joy originate in the heart of the jailer as a meal was shared in his home? Acts 16:34
