



**Acts 16:1-4**

- 1 Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek.**
- 2 The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him.**
- 3 Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.**
- 4 As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey.**

**Special Music - *This Little Light of Mine* - World Vision**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8ezdfuZqT4>

**Ruth Bader Ginsburg was born March 15, 1933 in Brooklyn, New York and passed away on September 18, 2020. She was one of only eight women in her class at Harvard among a class of 500 where the women were constantly belittled for taking the place of qualified male students. She was Jewish by faith.**

**During the course of her career she championed equal rights for women, gays and other minorities at every opportunity. She was nominated to the D.C. Federal Court of Appeals in 1980 and to the Supreme court in 1993.**

**Whether you agree with her politics or not, every American living today has been affected in some way by her efforts and her decisions. Even I did not agree with everything that she championed, but she had the fight of a lion and a heart of compassion that is so difficult to find in one person these days. She believed in the equality of all people under the law and would often put herself in the line of fire to protect the rights of every individual.**

**Although she was small in stature, she was bigger than life and we all owe a debt of gratitude to her for her service.**

**The shadow that she cast was huge and as much as she influenced who we are today, that was not her biggest triumph. When you read stories from her students you will find a common thread. No matter what else she had going on, she made herself available for her students. She made herself available to hear them and speak into them. She made herself available not to mold them into her image, but into an image that was conscious of and compassionate for the people that**

**they would interact with. She attempted to show them that they too, could be champions in a world full of giants, a world full of discrimination, a world full of hate, a world full of inequality. And the most important thing that she gave them... was time. Time to answer their questions. Time to speak into their lives. Time to lift them up so that they could see the world as it should be rather than the way it is.**

**That is the essence of mentorship. The willingness to give your time to lift someone else.**

**Paul's first and second missionary journey**

1. On his first missionary journey, Paul had established churches in Asia Minor (Turkey)
2. After his first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas have a disagreement regarding John Mark who had left them on the first trip.
  - a. Barnabas wanted to take John Mark with them on the second journey
  - b. Paul was adamant about not allowing John Mark to join them
  - c. They split up and Barnabas takes John Mark with him to Cyprus
  - d. Paul takes Silas with him as he returns to Asia Minor
3. On the first missionary journey, Paul had established churches in Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe
4. On his second missionary journey, he revisits these the churches that he had instigated.

### **Paul meets Timothy**

1. He meets Timothy on his second missionary journey when he revisits Derbe.
2. We read that Timothy's father was Greek and his mother was a Jew.
3. We know from 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to Timothy that Timothy's grandmother and mother were among the first converts when Paul first visited the Jewish community of Lystra.

4. Paul speaks very highly of Timothy's grandmother and mother and how they influenced him

#### **2 Timothy 1:5**

**I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.**

5. Paul takes a liking to this young man
  - a. They do have similar backgrounds
    - i. Paul had a Roman father and a Jewish mother
    - ii. Timothy had a Greek father and a Jewish mother
  - b. Paul circumcises Timothy
    - i. He did this to appease the Jews living in the community
    - ii. Unlike his battle with Peter of the circumcision of the Gentiles, Timothy is considered a Jewish convert living in a Jewish community.
6. He then ordains Timothy
  - a. He lays hands on Timothy
  - b. Timothy receives the spirit of God

#### **2 Timothy 1:6-7**

**<sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup>For the Spirit**

**God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.**

- c. Ordination is both a symbolic and a spiritual practice where those who support one's ministry show that support in a physical way, often by the laying on of hands, the pouring out of oil or water over the head (anointing), and consecration through prayer. Ordination is often public but doesn't have to be.

#### **7. Paul and Timothy's journey**

- a. The letter to the Galatians tells us emphatically that Paul's call to preach the gospel comes from God, not the Apostles in Jerusalem.
- b. God calls us to service, the church does not call us to service. You can't serve two masters even if one of them is the church.
- c. Paul does understand the need to keep the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ consistent.
- d. While he may not agree with everything decided by the Apostles, he does support the core principals.
- e. It is for this reason I included verse 4 in this message:

**4 As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey.**

**8. How does Paul mentor Timothy?**

- a. He chooses him. He sees potential and chooses to nurture that potential.**
- b. He trains Timothy, equipping him for a life of ministry**
- c. He empowers Timothy. He lifts him up and boosts his confidence as a minister and a leader.**
- d. He prays for Timothy, lifting him up and standing in the gap for him**
- e. All of this takes time. The precious gift of time.**

**9. He lets Timothy stand on his own two feet**

- a. Paul leaves Timothy in Ephesus to continue lifting the church there and watching over that flock.**
- b. Paul is confident that Timothy has learned what he needs to learn**
- c. Paul is confident that Timothy will continue his legacy with a consistent message of God's grace and salvation.**
- d. Paul is also confident that Timothy will mentor others.**
- e. Paul remains in contact with Timothy through letters, lifting and encouraging him. He continues to speak into him and keep him focused**

**10. Jesus was a mentor to his disciples**

- a. He chose them because he saw the potential in them. He could see that they were the best choice for taking his message to the world once he was gone.**
- b. He trained the disciples in the ways of ministry, teaching them servant leadership by example.**
- c. He taught them in ways that they could understand, through parables and practical applications.**
- d. He lifted them in prayer to His father.**
- e. He corrected them when necessary and praised them when appropriate.**
- f. He empowered them through the Great Commission and the Holy Spirit to continue His ministry on earth.**

**11. Every Christian is called to mentorship**

- a. We preach the gospel to the nations**
- b. But Christ also expects us to mentor the newly converted so that they can grow in the spirit. We are to lift and build up new Christians in the ways of discipleship.**
- c. As disciples, we are called to disciple others so that they too can disciple others.**
- d. As disciples we are are called to pray for one another and stand in the gap as we engage in mentorship.**



**e. We are called to invest our time in mentoring disciples**

- i. Time is our most precious asset because once you spend it, it can never be recovered.**
- ii. Our time is given to us by God to invest in others, lifting and training them in the ways of discipleship**
- iii. We are called not only to make disciples of all nations but to nurture those disciples through mentorship.**

**If we learn no other lesson from Paul and Ruth Bader Ginsberg with regards to Mentorship, we should learn that investing our time and energy in others is never wasteful.**

**AMEN**