

## Lydia

Acts 16 is but a sampling of the evangelism that took place at Philippi. We have the conversion of 2 households – Philippian jailer & Lydia. Paul and Silas remained there a number of days – and a number of converts resulted. (16:40) It is safe to assume much happened in Philippi that we are not told.

### I. Paul & Silas were on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey

- A. Acts 15:36 – decision for 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey.
- B. 16:1-10 – Travel across Asia Minor, head to Macedonia.
- C. Philippi was a “Roman colony.”
  - 1. Philippians were proud of their Roman citizenship.
- D. 16:13 – went outside the gate to the riverside looking for a place of prayer.
  - 1. River 1 mile W of Philippi – Gargites. No synagogue in city.

### II. An introduction to Lydia.

- A. 16:13 – the only worshippers of God in all of Philippi?
- B. 16:14 – Lydia was a “worshipper” of God. From Thyatira.
- C. 16:14 – a seller of purple fabrics.
  - 1. Purple dye came from shell fish juice.
  - 2. To be arrayed in purple & fine linen was to be rich. Her service would have been in great demand.

### III. What can we learn about Lydia?

- A. 16:14 - Lydia was eager to learn.
  - 1. As Paul/Silas sat down to teach 16:14 says she *was listening*.
  - 2. How is our hunger for gospel teaching?
    - a) Mt. 5:6 – do we truly hunger & thirst for righteousness?
- B. 16:14 - Not only eager to learn – but quick to respond.
  - 1. How many invitations have you spurned?
  - 2. 2 Pet 2:20-22 – hell will be worse for former Christian because of remorse/regret.
- C. 16:14 – She had an open heart.
  - 1. In 16:14-15 we have a simple conversion story.
    - a) 16:14a – she was listening.
    - b) 16b – the Lord opened her heart.
    - c) 16c – She responded to the things spoken by Paul.
  - 2. The opening of her heart is testimony to the providence of God.
  - 3. One more point on the opening of her heart. A figure of speech...
- E. 16:15 – Lydia immediately began serving her fellow Christians.
  - 1. She wanted to give something back.
  - 2. She opened her home. Christians are to practice hospitality.
    - a) Rom. 12:13; 1 Pet. 4:9

### IV. The power of Lydia’s influence:

- A. A remarkable story – and what a significant part Lydia played.
  - 1. Did she use her resources to help spread the gospel of Christ?
- B. She was in the right place at the right time, with the right heart and right attitude.
  - 1. God is looking for men & women of influence in this generation.
  - 2. What can God do with you? You fit in His plan. Do you trust in His providence?

### Conclusion:

- A. Philippians 1:3-5 – Paul’s reflection on the Philippian congregation.
- B. Could this have been due to the influence of Lydia?