

1. What does the Spirit's guidance in preventing Paul and his companions from preaching in certain regions teach about divine direction (vs. 6-7)? (See Prov. 16:9; Gal. 5:25 .) How does the Spirit's restraining of Paul in this passage shape our understanding of God's will, especially when opportunities appear good? Reflect on a time when a closed door redirected you. How can you grow in sensitivity to the Spirit's guidance rather than relying solely on personal plans?
2. In 16:9-10, what is the significance of the "Macedonian vision" and its role in Paul's mission? (See Matt. 28:19-20; Isa. 6:8; Acts 1:8.) How does Paul's response to the vision demonstrate his readiness and discernment in following God's call? Consider how God may be calling you to respond to spiritual need. What steps might you take to be more attentive and obedient to such promptings?
3. In 16:13-14, what does Lydia's response reveal about God's work in salvation? (See Ezek. 36:26-27; John 6:44.) What does it mean that "the Lord opened her heart," and how does this shape our understanding of conversion? How should this truth affect your approach to evangelism and prayer for others?
4. How does Lydia's hospitality demonstrate the fruit of faith (v. 15)? (See Heb. 13:2; Rom. 12:13; 1 Pet. 4:9.) In what ways does Lydia's immediate response reflect genuine faith and commitment? Consider how your home and resources might serve God's purposes. What practical steps can you take to show hospitality and support gospel work?

EXTRA CREDIT: At the end of Eric's sermon yesterday, he challenged us to pray for a neighbor, friend, or family member who we might invite to join us in worship of the Living and True God this Easter. For whom will you pray?