

Lydia's Household Converted in Philippi

Acts 16:9-15

When you serve God, when you go where He sends you and do what He tells you, you never know what the results might be.

1. **The Message** – “A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them” (Acts 16:9-10).

So often we see things only from our perspective. Paul understood that service for God is always about our faithfulness to God, not the results. As we are about to find out, just one convert can make all the difference!

2. **The Response** – “And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled. A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household had been baptized” (Acts 16:13-15a).

As Paul speaks the Bible says that Lydia listened and opened her heart. The Greek word here for listen indicates a continuing process.

Paul is in the right place, at Philippi on a riverbank with a group of women, and Lydia is in the right place listening to Paul. But that moment she believes the word she has heard. That is what it means when it says "she opened her heart to pay attention". She was taking the next step in her spiritual journey, and that step was trusting Christ as her Savior. How exciting that Lydia is the first European convert to Christianity!

3. **The Hospitality** – “And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us” (Acts 16:15).

“They went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia, and when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed” (Acts 16:40).

Lydia didn't just open her heart, she opened her home. She willingly shared what she had and demonstrated the spiritual gift of hospitality. The missionaries end up at her house again (Acts 16:40).

Jesus said, “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it” (Matthew 13:45-46).

Lydia was a successful merchant, but she knew there was something much more valuable than money. Her worship and prayer gave her the opportunity to hear the gospel, and she showed her faithfulness to God by obeying the gospel immediately through faith and baptism (Mark 16:15-16). How about you?