

The Book of Acts: Week 8

PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY



ACTS 16 & THE CHURCH OF PHILIPPI

Acts 16:11-12 (ESV)

"11 So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days."

LYDIA

Acts 16:13-15 (ESV)

"13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. 14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. 15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.' And she prevailed upon us."

1. Some people are reached by God by engaging their intellect. Lydia is a wonderful example of generosity & hospitality.

“Once again in Acts we see the use of one’s home as a wonderful tool for ministry. This is a reminder that we should all seek to practice hospitality in order to serve the church. Extending hospitality isn’t the same as entertaining, however. Entertaining shows off; hospitality shares. Use your home to serve others, not to wow them with your financial success or decorating abilities or as an escape from socializing.” -Tony Merida

DEMON POSSESSED GIRL

Acts 16:16-18 (ESV)

“16 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling.” “17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation. 18 And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.”

2. Nothing is stronger than the power of God.

JAILER

Acts 16:20-34 (ESV)

“20 And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, “These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. 21 They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice.” 22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. 23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. 24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, 26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s bonds were unfastened. 27 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” 29 And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” 31 And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he

was baptized at once, he and all his family. 34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.”

“This jailer knew of the deliverance of the pythoness, and he had handled the incarceration of the missionary pair. He had probably been listening to their songs when the earth rocked beneath him. This question, then, makes sense. Paul points the jailer to the only name that saves, to Jesus the Savior of Lydia and the Savior of the slave girl. He effectively tells this man, “Jesus can transform you, and he can transform your whole family too.” That’s what we must keep telling people: all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved. Soon the jailer’s whole household hears the gospel, believes it, and is baptized. The jailer, in an act of humility and repentance, not only washes the wounds of the missionaries but also serves the two a meal. This is a sweet picture of transformation! No longer does the jailer view the wounded men as prisoners; he cares for them as brothers in Christ. In this wonderful picture of gospel hospitality, the jailer and his family rejoice in their new life.” -Tony Merida