

## “Extraordinary Women of the Bible – Lydia”

Acts 16:12-14 – **“<sup>12</sup> Then we went by land to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city in that part of Macedonia. We stayed there for several days.**

**<sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate to the river where we thought we would find a special place for prayer. Some women had gathered there, so we sat down and talked with them. <sup>14</sup> One of the listeners was a woman named Lydia from the city of Thyatira whose job was selling purple cloth. She worshiped God, and he opened her mind to pay attention to what Paul was saying.”**

1. Lydia is best remembered as the \_\_\_\_\_ convert for the gospel in Europe. She was the 1<sup>st</sup> person on record to respond to the message of Christ during the apostle Paul’s original missionary journey into Europe.
2. Lydia’s conversion marked the earliest foothold of the church on a continent that ultimately became the “hub” of the gospel’s witness worldwide.
3. Lydia’s actual hometown was the city of \_\_\_\_\_, which was home to one of the seven churches of Revelation (2:18-29).
4. Luke includes this very brief mention of this woman at the beginning of his narrative about Paul’s \_\_\_\_\_ missionary journey.
5. Paul’s main companions on that long journey were Silas & Timothy. It seems that Luke joined the \_\_\_\_\_ team just before they crossed the narrow strait from Troas (in Asia Minor) into Macedonia (entering Europe).
6. Luke didn’t explain all the circumstances, but by some means they had been \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit of God to journey into the heart of Asia Minor.
7. Every other door of ministry in Asia was also \_\_\_\_\_ to them. (16:6-8)
8. That’s when Paul received a \_\_\_\_\_ calling him across to the European continent.

9. God had made it perfectly clear to all that there was just one way ahead  
– \_\_\_\_\_.

10. Luke gives a detailed account of the route they took to Macedonia: **“<sup>11</sup> We left Troas and sailed straight to the island of Samothrace. The next day we sailed to Neapolis. <sup>12</sup> Then we went by land to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city in that part of Macedonia. We stayed there for several days.”**

11. Luke describes Philippi as “a \_\_\_\_\_” which means it was a colony of Rome, with a Roman government & a large population of Roman citizens.

12. This was a prosperous & flourishing city, bustling with trade & commerce from all over the world. It was a \_\_\_\_\_ place for introducing the gospel to Europe.

13. Paul & company spent “some days” in Philippi, apparently waiting for the \_\_\_\_\_.

14. Paul’s normal \_\_\_\_\_ strategy was to take the gospel first to the local synagogue, because if he went to the Gentiles first, the Jews would never listen to anything he had to say.

15. Philippi was a thoroughly Gentile town with \_\_\_\_\_ synagogue.

16. In order to start a synagogue in any community, Jewish custom required a \_\_\_\_\_ (known as a minyan) of at least 10 Jewish men (any adult males beyond the age of Bar Mitzvah ( 13 yrs.) would qualify.

17. According to the tradition, in communities without synagogues, Jewish women could pray in \_\_\_\_\_ if they liked, but men had to form a legitimate minyan before they could partake in any kind of formal, public, communal worship – including prayer, the reading of the Torah, or the giving of public blessings.

18. Acts 16:13 says: **“<sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate to the river where we thought we would find a special place for prayer. Some women had gathered there, so we sat down and talked with them.”**

19. In keeping with his principle of bringing the \_\_\_\_\_ “(to) the Jew first” (Romans 1:16), Paul went to the riverside to preach.
20. The one woman who responded most eagerly was \_\_\_\_\_ Jewish at all. Lydia was a worshiper of YHWH (name for Hebrew god).
21. She was a Gentile, an active \_\_\_\_\_ of the true God who had not even yet become a formal Jewish proselyte.
22. Acts 16:14 says: **“One of the listeners was a woman named Lydia from the city of Thyatira whose job was selling purple cloth. She worshiped God, & he opened her mind to pay attention to what Paul was saying.”**
23. Lydia was a \_\_\_\_\_. She sold purple dye & fancy purple cloth.
24. The rare and expensive dye was made from a spiny-shelled mollusk known as the \_\_\_\_\_.
25. The expensive dye was the basis for \_\_\_\_\_ purple, and that substance was one of the most precious of all commodities in the ancient world.
26. We can conclude that Lydia must have been a woman of some \_\_\_\_\_.
27. The mention of “a household” in Acts 16:15 would indicate that she maintained a home in Philippi, most likely, with household servants. All of this confirms that she was a \_\_\_\_\_ woman.
28. Lydia was a \_\_\_\_\_ of God. And, anytime we see someone who is hungering for God, you can believe that God is drawing that individual to Himself.
29. Whenever someone \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, it is God who opens the heart to believe. If God Himself did not draw us to Christ, we would never come at all.
30. John 6:44 clearly states this declaration from Jesus: **“No one can come to the ME unless the Father who sent ME draws him.”**

31. Let us remember that the “fallen” heart is in absolute \_\_\_\_\_ to sin. Every sinner is just as helpless as Mary Magdalene was under the possession of those seven demons.
32. We are \_\_\_\_\_ to change our own hearts or turn from evil in order to do good.
33. The love of evil is part of our \_\_\_\_\_ natures, and it is the very thing that makes it impossible for us to choose good over evil.
34. Our wills are bent in accordance with what we \_\_\_\_\_. We are in bondage to our own corruption. The Bible portrays the condition of every fallen sinner as a state of \_\_\_\_\_ enslavement to sin.
35. Acts 16:14 describes Lydia as a woman “**who worshiped God.**” Intellectually, at least, she already knew that YHWH was the one \_\_\_\_\_ God.
36. In Acts 16:14, Luke records that Lydia “heard us.” This meant that she was listening \_\_\_\_\_. She listened with rapt attention and understanding as Paul and his companions explained the gospel message.
37. Luke affirms the sovereignty of God in Lydia’s \_\_\_\_\_. Acts 16:14b says: “**The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message.**”
38. God’s \_\_\_\_\_ hand is clearly seen in every aspect of Luke’s account. God clearly orchestrated the circumstances that brought Paul to Macedonia. It was God’s providence that brought Lydia there & drew her to the riverside on a Sabbath morning with a seeking heart. It was the Spirit of God who sovereignly \_\_\_\_\_ her heart gave her spiritual ears to hear, and gave her spiritual eyes to see the irresistible appeal of Christ.
39. Lydia heard God’s calling on her life and she responded immediately. She willingly embraced the \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel & became a believer that very morning.
40. Lydia’s faith immediately was evident in her \_\_\_\_\_. Luke records in 16:15 – “**15 When she and the members of her household were baptized...**”
41. Whoever was included in the household, they all came to faith & were \_\_\_\_\_ right along with Lydia.
42. She was already \_\_\_\_\_ people to faith in Christ & follow through that commitment with baptism.

43. Lydia was also quick to show \_\_\_\_\_ to the missionaries. According to Luke, she “begged” them to be her guests: **“When she & the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.” (Acts 16:15)**
44. Her wonderful act of hospitality \_\_\_\_\_ the way for the church to penetrate Europe. By opening her home to the apostle Paul, she had the honor of hosting in her own living room the earliest meetings of the 1<sup>st</sup> church ever established in Europe.
45. Lydia epitomized the kind of hospitality Scripture \_\_\_\_\_ of all Christ-followers.