



Acts: Lydia

Aug 23

INTRODUCTION: Paul & Co are now in Europe (c. AD 48/49). Having been led to Macedonia they go to its capital, Philippi, to witness. Here the story rests for the remainder of ch. 16. Paul would years later write a letter to the church established here (c. AD 62). Luke focuses on three conversions.

KEY POINT: policy, adaptability, Spirit, faith, evidence

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Earl Ambrose)

- What was the sermon about?
- What were the key points?
- Key takeaways...? Questions to keep considering?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Glenn Taylor)

- What was the sermon about?
- What were the key points?
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READ: Acts 16:11–16



QUESTIONS:

1. *V. 1- Landing in Macedonia (Europe) at Neapolis (the port of Philippi) the team went straight to the capital city. (The Egnatian Way was the E/W road, still visible today). What benefits are there in sharing the Gospel in capital cities (or significant or strategic centres)? Is Markdale such a centre?*
2. *V. 12b- “We remained in this city some days.” What do you think this suggests they were doing?*
3. *Paul’s tried and true method was to preach first at synagogues, c.f. Acts 13:14 (why?). However, he didn’t find one gathered on the Jewish Sabbath in Philippi.*

4. **How must we adapt our evangelism to changing circumstances?**
5. *He did find a place of prayer outside the city along the Gangites River (quiet, absolutions?), either a small enclosure of open space. 10 Jewish men were needed to found a synagogue, and so unable to hold a service or teach (c.f. 1 Ti 2:12) the women were praying (c.f. 1 Cor 11:5).¹ Upon sitting down he, possibly looking like a Rabbi, was invited to speak.*
 - a. **What is necessary to establish and operate a church? How would qualified men likewise be necessary?**
6. **V. 13- what do you suppose they spoke to them about?**
7. *Lydia was a god-fearer, i.e. she hadn’t become Jewish but worshipped the God of Israel (or she behaved like a Jew without becoming a Jew). She was from Thyatira, Asia. Since Thyatira was known for its purple dyes (commoners wore earthen colours, only the wealthy could afford dyes, purple being the most expensive) it would appear she was in this capital city as an agent of a Thyatiran manufacturer. Likely a widow.*
8. **Like Cornelius, Is being a god-fearer good enough to be saved?**
9. **V. 14b- How must the Spirit work in hearer’s hearts for salvation to take place when the Gospel is preached? (Jn 6:44).²**
10. **What is presumed of Lydia and her household (older children/servants) between v. 14 and 15?**
11. *How does household baptism not equal infant baptism (c.f. vv. 32–33). What did the members of the household do?*
12. *Do you think her baptism was immediate or delayed? Where do you think she was baptized?*

¹ While Christian women may not teach theology specifically/formally/officially/academically they may: share the Gospel, engage in basic apologetics and general evangelism (Priscilla & Aquila), teach the basics to children (Dt 6:6) and train other women in godliness (Tit 2:3–5) and be an encourager of godly men (Deborah and Barak). She is encouraged to learn the faith in order to accomplish these roles effectively.

² This is an example of an effectual call (not the general call of the preacher) an inward call by the Spirit to believe the proclamation of the Gospel that has the intended effect of salvation. We’ve seen similar verses elsewhere in Acts 13:48.

13. While wealth is an obstacle to salvation is it a prohibition of it?
14. *Here we see an order: belief, baptism, joining the church & fruit.*
15. *V. 15b- Believers bear the fruit of faith. How was her hospitality evidence of her conversion? What fruit are you bearing for the Lord?*
16. *Though Christian men and women's roles are different, together they have great value in the church. Lydia is an inspiring example of godly womanhood and of partnership in the Gospel.*
17. *V. 40- her [large?] home became the eventual location where the church in Philippi would gather, a house church.*
18. How is hospitality the mark of a Christian (Ro 12:13), of elders (1 Ti 3:2), of women (1 Ti 5:10)?
19. Are our homes (and hearts) open to be serving the Lord?
Would you offer your home for the church to meet?

NEXT: Aug 30- Acts 17:1–9, Thessalonica