



Lydia - Week 3

Overview

The story of Lydia takes place during Paul and Silas 2nd journey. Timothy had recently joined them.

Acts 16:5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.



Pauls Journeys

Acts 16:11-15 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and 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.

Important facts about Lydia

1. She was **industrious** and **wealthy**
 - She lived and worked in geographical areas colonized by the Romans . Phillipi and Thyatira were two of the most commercial areas of her time.
 - Running a business takes a lot of work especially making purple cloth.
2. She was a woman of **influence**
 - No mention of husband. Culturally it would have read Lydia the wife of _____. Most likely she was either a widow or single.
 - Household mentioned could have been relatives or servants. Her household indicates she was the head of household.
 - Because of her wealthy clients and business associates. When she found out about the gospel she started a fire in her home. She went home and told her household and they all decided to accept the gospel too.
 - The first recorded convert in Europe
3. She was **obedient**
 - She immediately got baptized and shared the gospel.
4. She was **hospitable** and **generous** with her resources.
 - When she received the gospel she didn't just open her heart but opened her home.

Acts 18:40 "And they went out of the prison, and entered into the house of Lydia: and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed."

5. She was **courageous**
 - She worked and lived in a predominately male lead area
 - She opened her home even with the threats of the time

Lessons learned from Lydia

1. Be willing to **step out** when called

John 6:44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.

2. Use the **gifts** God has given you to further the ministry

a. **Talents** Get involved in serving the church in some capacity.

1 Peter 4:10-11 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

b. **Finances** Give to help the church grow

Proverbs 9 Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the first produce of your entire harvest

c. **Possessions** Use your home to share the love of Jesus. Invite people in

1 Peter 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without complaining.

d. **Prayer** and **Praise**

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Winston Churchill quote: We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give