

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Lydia's Conversion

Sunday, April 30, 2023

Scripture: **Acts 16:11-15**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

In these verses, we see God's plan at work to spread the truth to the world. God sends messengers and workers to preach and teach the gospel. God empowers His message to reach the lost. God then plants churches. We don't see Paul, Luke, Timothy, and Silas seeking conversions through emotion. What we do see is **God miraculously changing lives and building His church through faithful use of ordinary means and ordinary people.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Acts 17:4, 12, 34; Acts 18:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Acts 20:21.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How are you encouraged by this message of conversion? Consider the work of God in your own experience of Christ's applied redemption. Do you remember the "burden" that led you to calvary? Can you see clearly the turning away from the world and turning towards faith & belief in God in your own life? (see Philippians 1:6)
2. Lydia, along with her household, was the first convert in Philippi. Lydia immediately demonstrated fruit in her young Christian life by being baptized (with her household). Many people have different thoughts on baptism. Our Statement of Faith says this:

Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, obligatory upon every believer, wherein he is immersed in water in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign of his fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of giving himself up to God, to live and walk in newness of life.

Is baptism necessary to be a believer? Is it necessary in a Christian's walk with God?

3. When Paul was speaking to the women by the river, the Word says Lydia listened intently. Scott stated, "Distractions threaten to choke out the gospel in our lives". How intently are you listening to the Savior's voice? (see John 10:27) What steps can you take to ensure the gospel is not pushed aside in your life?
4. Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke were sent to share the gospel. They were preaching Christ crucified, calling hearers to repentance and faith. How are you doing in this command from Jesus? How do you feel we, as his church, are accomplishing this call to obedience?
5. What is your conversion story? Why are conversion stories important? How do they affect the believer and the unsaved differently?