



July 18, 2020 Message  
"Dyeing to Meet Jesus"  
Acts 16 the World Needs Jesus Series



***-Acts 16: 9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.***

**1. Let God Lead**

***- 11 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. 12 From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.***

- a. Why didn't Paul and Silas act disappointed when God didn't allow them to go where they had planned?
- b. Why didn't they "pray" about it before changing their plans?
- c. Following God's will is often more about planning what we think is best and allowing God to change the circumstances than deliberating endlessly over what we should do.
- d. Has God ever changed your plans and they worked out better than what you had planned?

***-13 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. 14 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. 15 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.***

- a. Do you notice how God had prepared Lydia's heart? Sharing the gospel is often set up for us as God has already done much of the work.
- b. The following passage shows us that no one seeks God, but it looks as if Lydia was seeking. How do you explain this?

***-"No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. John 6:44***

**2. Well-Off People Need Jesus**

***- Phil. 4:15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need.***

- a. Lydia was apparently wealthy and influential. Why do you think she came to faith?
- b. All people are lost and empty. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Rom 3:23
- c. Why do we often think of poor and sick people as needing Jesus but rarely think of well-off people needing Jesus?

### 3. Women Are Welcome Members, and Leaders, In the Body of Christ

These women were very important and influential in the early church. Read about them.

**Mary, the mother of Jesus** Acts 1:12-26

**Tabitha a.k.a. Dorcas** Acts 9:36-43

**Mary, the mother of John Mark** Acts 12:6-19

**Rhoda the servant girl** Acts 12:6-19

**Lydia of Thyatira** Acts 16:11-40

**Damaris the Areopagite** Acts 17:16-34

**Priscilla, of "Priscilla and Aquila"** Acts 18:1-28

- a. How important are women in the church? What type of roles did they play?
- b. What are some important Christian women in your life?

***-“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28).***

***- 40 After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.***