

IMPACTING YOUR HOUSEHOLD WITH YOUR TESTIMONY

Acts 16:10-15

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. Birthing a local church God's way: vv. 11-13

1. Beginning with a team of disciples:
2. Seeking out those who are waiting on the Lord:

B. Three unlikely candidates for planting this local church:

1. A widowed woman: vv. 14-15
2. A possessed girl: vv. 16-24
3. A suicidal jailor: vv. 16-40

"After sharing the bad news, evangelism is lovingly and urgently communicating the "Good News" (gospel) with the immediate intent of eliciting from the listener, a genuine, life changing decision to place his/her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and Him alone as the Almighty God, for his/her eternal salvation. It includes both clearly informing and urgently inviting the individual to repent (surrender) his/her life (will) to the Lord Jesus Christ. The three stages of development in evangelism as described in Acts 1:8 begin with 'Jerusalem' (local evangelism), 'Judea and Samaria' (regional evangelism) and lastly 'the uttermost part of the earth' (global evangelism). (See Jn. 1:29; 3:16; 10:10b; 15:8, 16; 17:18; 18:37; Lk. 19:10)"

"My alarm goes off every morning, to "awaken" me from my entangled slumber, so I will keep my head up and wisely pursue my calling today in seeking out and saving those who are lost, because time is short (for them and me) and the days are evil. (See Eph. 5:14-17; Lk. 19:10)"

C. Lydia, the widow lady from Thyatira introduced: vv. 13b-14a

II. GOD'S ONGOING PROMISE TO THOSE WHO SEEK HIM: (See Mt. 7:7; Lk. 11:9)

A. Seeking: v. 13b

B. Listening: v. 14a

C. Surrendering: vv. 14b-15, 40 (See II Cor. 5:17)

1. Christ centered: vv. 14b-15a (See also vv. 30-34)
 - a. Acknowledging and verbally acting in faith (salvation): (Rom. 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9)
 - b. Announcing publicly I am no longer in charge of my life (baptism): (Mt. 10:32-33)
2. Others centered: vv. 15b, 40

"Our word hospitality comes from the Greek word 'hospes' meaning guest or host. From the Greek word we get such terms as 'hospital' meaning to host the sick and the word 'hotel' meaning to host travelers. Biblically it is defined as 'the frequent, friendly reception and treatment of guests and strangers in your home for the purpose of serving them in some way. 'Driven' or 'given' (Rom. 12:13) means to forcefully, vigorously, relentlessly, enthusiastically, and constantly pursue hospitality. It means to constantly think about it, plan for it with your family, prepare for it financially, pray for opportunities, and seek every opportunity to do it, throughout the week without grumbling. It is the idea of an enthusiastic hunter vigorously tracking his prey. (I Pet. 4:8-9) The hospitality command is to minister (serve, meet the needs) not to entertain. Entertaining is focused on 'self' where as hospitality is focused on 'others'. It is joyfully (See Deut. 28:47) bringing a family or an individual into your home beginning with those that cannot necessarily ever repay (i.e. widows, singles poor, divorced, etc.) (Lk. 14:12-14) not because you think they deserve it but because Jesus Christ deserves it. (Mt. 25:34-36; Ja. 1:27)"

III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming "people of the Word" in principle AND in practice)

A.

B.

C.

Sinners prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, I was made by you and I was made for you, but I have been living for myself. I am sorry for that self-rule you call sin. I believe that Jesus Christ being my creator God, died, was buried, and rose again to pay the insurmountable debt that my sin has created. So right now, I am turning from a life of going my own way, to by faith, place my trust in Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of all my sin, and to get me to heaven, when I breath my last breath. Lord Jesus, from today on, I am yours. Thanks for saving me, this very moment, in Jesus name, Amen.