

LESSONS FROM LYDIA - RUTH WIMBLE

We find Lydia in Acts 16. Paul and the apostles are on an apostolic journey going from city to city looking for people to share the gospel with and they arrive in Philippi and this is where we pick it up in *Acts 16:13 - 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. One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira who was a worshipper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Pauls' 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.*

We see from this story that Lydia is a prominent woman. She is a successful business woman. She deals in purple linen, which was a very expensive type of fabric. If you read on, she has a large household, she has servants to wait on her and she is a very wealthy woman. We see Paul sharing the gospel with her and although she found herself in a place of worship and prayer, she had not yet been born again. It says that her heart was opened up to the gospel and she gets saved. In an almost radical move, she tells her whole household about her salvation and they accept the gospel and they all get baptised and it's an act of passion and obedience and fervour wanting to do what the apostles were guiding her to do in her spiritual journey.

I love that then she immediately opens up her home to the apostles and invites them to come into her home. If you read on, you will see that this was the start of the church in Philippi to which Paul later wrote the book of Philippians which is to this church which started with a new convert, a successful business woman and her opening up her heart to God and her home to others.

If I think of an example of that in my own life, I would have to say it was my dad. He got radically saved in his twenties and he didn't have a lot of knowledge about God but he was so fervent and passionate that he started telling everybody around Him about his conversion.

I remember being young and always having an open home to people. There was always a couch ready for someone to come and pour out their heart. There was always another space around the table for dinner. We didn't have a big home and we didn't have wealthy meals that were laid out for us but there was always space for one more.

I want to encourage you that even if you are at the beginning of your journey, that you open up your heart to God and your home to others He can do great things like He did through Lydia.