

Sermon Notes - 2/26/20

Pastor Michelle Lee (Director & Associate Pastor of RRM) My Response

We all have moments in our lives that can be considered “defining moments”– times when a certain thing happened that changed our life trajectory.

Studies say that we typically have 8-10 defining moments across a lifetime: those moments shape us to who we are.

My hope is as tonight goes on that you will be able to identify some defining moments in your life and hopefully you don’t count all 8-10 cause otherwise your going to have a pretty boring life from here on out...

Identifying these moments are important because the “why” matters... regardless if it was

1. Defining moments: give purpose to our pain. place where you’re hurting, if we can find purpose and say that was terrible but look what came from it!

-> You need to collect the dots, so you can connect the dots, so you can correct the dots! Important to give purpose to those moments!

2. Defining moments allow us to see God’s Faithfulness in our lives is best seen on purpose. God’s faithfulness in our lives is way better seen on purpose than by accident.

3. Defining moments aren’t just about YOU!

-> It’s not just about me/ you: these moments matter because we are all interconnected together/ we’re all connected and effected by the Defining Moments. How small is Charlotte, Small world!?

I look back and what I feel like my first “defining moment in my life was my parent’s divorce” But I realized while studying that wasn’t my defining moment it was my response to my parents “Defining Moment” I was impacted by their defining moment. My life changed because of their decision.

If it wasn’t for that defining moment, I wouldn’t have two amazing step parents, and 5 other siblings.

IT's SO IMPORTANT***** How you respond to others defining moments sets you up for your own defining moments.

I want to talk about a woman in the new testament named Lydia and there is only 4 verses written about her but so much to take from the four verses.

Acts 16:13-15 Amplified Bible (AMP)

13 and on the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate to the bank of the [Gangites] river, where we thought there would be a place of prayer, and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had come there.

Acts is written by Luke who was a doctor, Dr. Luke, and was one of Paul's friends. If you're new to reading the word, read Luke and Acts back to back because they are very similar but the differences are that in the book of Luke we find that most of what Luke shared was by interviewing others accounts. He wasn't really there for most of it, but in Acts he is present. So when we read Acts we see the word "we" and he's referring to himself, Paul and Silas, and other missionaries.

vs. 14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, (thya-tie-ra) a dealer in purple fabrics who was [already] a worshiper of God, listened to us; and the Lord opened her heart to pay attention *and* to respond to the things said by Paul.

15 And when she was baptized, along with her household, she pleaded with us, saying, "If you have judged me *and* decided that I am faithful to the Lord [a true believer], come to my house and stay." And she persuaded us.

and then this story happens... (Read on your own time)

Paul and Sails leave and in end up Jail because this demon processed woman won't stop following them and she gets set free and the people who were making money off her weren't happy, so they get thrown in jail for no reason.

While in Jail, the earth shakes and the prison doors are opened and walk free.

vs. 40 So they left the prison and went to Lydia's *house*; and when they had seen the brothers and sisters, they encouraged *and* comforted them, and left.

What do we learn about Lydia:

1. **She had moved** to Philippi from Thyatira(thya-tie-ra)
2. **She had friends** — said it was the Sabbath day where women were

worshiping along the riverbank.

3. **She was a fabric dealer of purple dyes** — making purple dye was a difficult, costly, and time-consuming process. As a result, purple dye was purchased by royalty, elites, and the very wealthy. (FANCY) (BOUSHY) She's running her own business.
4. **She was already a worshiper of God** which meant that she was seeking a deeper spiritual life. She was considered a gentile (people who aren't born Jewish but who adopted the Jewish religion (observe the sabbath, going to the synagogue). She centered her faith and her life on Jesus.
5. **She has a household - vs. 15 Invites them as HouseGuests** — After she was baptized, along with everyone in her household, MSG VERSION "she said in a surge of hospitality, "If you're confident that I'm in this with you and believe in the Master truly, come home with me and be my guests." We hesitated, but she wouldn't take no for an answer. " Her house was large enough to support Paul, Silas, and Luke and perhaps others with them.
+++++++ There's also a clue that tells us she was probably a widow, because there was no mention of a husband or other males she needed to consult with, the common practice for a woman at the time.
6. **She starts a HOMEGROUP** — When Paul tells her about Jesus it didn't matter how busy she was she wanted others to hear about him too in vs. 40 "Paul and Silas return to her house and are met where "they comforted, and encouraged" . If you read the book of Philippians we read Paul's letters to the church of Philippi, many scholars believe that those letters were written and delivered to Lydia's house and read there.

(If this was happening today... she's the one that is getting the kids ready in the morning, she's throwing the guest room sheets in the washer and dryer, she's throwing the food in the crockpot because it's homegrown night, she's dropping the kids off and she's heading to work to make sure all the purple cloth orders are being processed and then she's back to carline to pick up the kids and rushing home to get the guest bed made, house cleaned up, kids homework and bathed, she's turning on her Christian pandora playlist and she's setting everything out for the homegroup, do you know her? I do, I am her, what a beautiful FULL life she has!

Lydia's defining moments

1. She's moved to a new city (Her move affected the people she lived with, her

family, her new friends she meets)

2. Salvation — She listened to Paul tell stories of Jesus, telling her things she had never heard before and she opened up her heart (the reason an open heart is so important is because without it, we will not listen to new things, different things that God wants to do in our lives. We are supposed to be single minded not narrow minded. People who think that there is only one way to do things, and that's their ways, are narrow minded. Those people are hard to work with , and full of pride and don't receive anything that is said to them.
A HUMBLE BELIEVER'S HEART IS OPEN TO TRUTH.

*Her salvation showed these story's of Jesus weren't just stories she felt the love of Christ... and Jesus became irresistible to her! Lydia became the first convert to Christianity in Europe. Acts 16:14 The first recorded believer in Europe. If you have any European decent in your family she was the first one, and then it just came west from there! We're all affected by her decision by her defining moment to open her heart to Jesus.

She was baptized and it says her household was with her. We can only assume this was her children. but at time and place and who she was friends with she had house maids, ad servants herself. Something about a mother's voice that brings comfort and powerful that they all followed after her.

+++ there's a research study by Barna Research that says **68% of US Christians who grew up with someone who influenced their faith say their mother's faith that impacted them the most.**

Our lives are the sum of the decisions we make... we're all impacted somehow. Today were all impacted by the DEFINING MOMENT that Pastor Michael had when he re-launched RRM from his jail cell. We're all impacted by His defining moment, each of us are directly impacted by His moment.

Your decision, doesn't just affect (not EFFECT) you, they affect the lives of others. * WE DON'T GET TO CONTROL HOW OTHERS ARE EFFECTED, HOW THEY FEEL, HOW THEY RESPOND TO YOUR DEFINING MOMENT.**

+++ BUT YOU DO GET TO DECIDE HOW YOU WILL RESPOND!! How you respond to other peoples defining moments will absolutely impact your defining moments in your life. How you respond, how you feel, how you grow, how you heal, how you celebrate, how you mourn, you do get to control how you respond to those defining moments of those who's lives impact your life.

CLOSING:

My life is shaped in my responses to the defining moments in other peoples lives. We need to live like our lives are affecting (impacting) those around us. I am changed because of those moments.

Prayer: 1. Open our eyes to our lives defining moments 2. Give us wisdom on how to respond to the defining moments around us 3. Help us to live with purpose and intentionality. 4. Open our hearts to yours, let us surrender to Your Presence. Overwhelm us like a mighty rush of wind Father. Amen.