



Associates Who Leverage Their Life for Christ

Acts 16:13-15 & 40

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Introduction:

“Be a Lydia, let your homes be open, let your hands be generous, let your hearts be big enough to help anyone in need. Joy is greatest when shared.”

- Author Unknown

Acts 16:9 *And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.*

The Lord was strategically moving things into place.

Acts 16:12 *And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.*

I. There was Lydia’s conversion as a potential associate. (V.13)

A. There was a devoted witness.

Acts 16:13 *And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women . . .*

B. There was a divine appointment.

Acts 16:13 *And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side . . . which resorted thither. (Does it not amaze you how God arranges the events of our lives so that we can hear the gospel?)*

II. There was Lydia's commitment as a potential associate. (V.14)

A. It was a commitment conceived by the Spirit's prompting.

Acts 16:14 *And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened,*

John 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

What were some notable qualities about Lydia?

- ◆ Lydia was an industrious person. She was an effective businesswoman. She sold purple dye and purple cloth, manufactured from mollusk known as the murex. Thyrian dye was the basis for royal purple, one of the most precious commodities in the ancient world.
- ◆ Lydia was a woman "who worshiped God." Intellectually, at least, she met regularly with the Jewish women who gathered to pray on the Sabbath.
- ◆ Lydia was a woman who gave unreserved obedience to the Lord. "*She attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.*" (V.14)
- ◆ Lydia was a person concerned about the spiritual need of her household. "*She was baptized, and her household.*"
- ◆ Lydia was a generous and hospitable person with her possessions concerning the ministry. "***Come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained them.***" (*She persuaded them!*)

B. It was a commitment confirmed by Spirit personally.

Acts 16:14 . . . *that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.*

*"The same God who ordained the end, Lydia's salvation, also ordained the means to the end.
Paul's witness of Jesus Christ."*

- Warren Wiersbe

III. There were Lydia's convictions as a productive associate. (V.15&40)

A. There was the personal nature of her convictions.

Acts 16:15 *And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us,*

Proverbs 14:1 *Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.*

B. There was the productive nature of her convictions.

Acts 16:15 . . . saying, *If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.*

“Lydia’s transformation of life was evidenced by her eagerness to give missionaries the hospitality of her home.”

- Hebert Lockler

C. There was the providential nature of her convictions.