

CONVERSION OF LYDIA

Acts 16:6-15

I. Introduction:

- A. Pay tribute to woman in care for man from birth to death.
- B. Woman's position before Christ — "slave" — same today in heathenism.
- C. Many women mentioned in Bible — remarkable for vices or virtues.

II. Discussion:

A. History of Lydia.

1. Home in Thyratira, Asia — 300 miles away — famed for purple dyes.
2. Seller of purple; v. 14 (used only in costly goods) Lk. 16:19. Indicates wealth. "There was a rich man clothed in purple.."
3. God wants "business people" — Moses, Ex. 3:1-4; Gideon, Judg. 6:11-12; David, 1 Sam. 16:11-12; Matthew, Mt. 9:9; Peter, Mt. 4:18-19; Luke, Col. 4:14.
4. Jew or proselyte - "worshipped God" v. 14 - even among heathen.
 - a. Business affairs didn't make her worldly.
 - b. Kept Sabbath. Didn't allow business to keep her from worshipping.
 - c. Kept the custom of praying, v. 13 - though no man to lead.
5. Yet needed conversion - Why?

B. How preachers and sinners were brought together.

1. Forbidden to preach in Asia or Bithynia. v. 6-7.
2. Paul's vision at Troas. v. 8-9. Europe called Asia. Greatest help to any nation is gospel.
3. "Endeavored to go" v. 10 - Ships seldom sailed from Troas to Macedonia?
4. "Straight course" v. 11 - wind and sail vessels.
 - a. Two days for journey, v. 11 - 5 days on return, Ax 20:6.
 - b. Not luck - God working.
5. Why not "direct operation?" - earthen vessels. 2 Cor 4:7.
6. Went to prayer meeting - could have gone to show, partying.

C. The Sermon:

1. Such simplicity - not even a pulpit. v. 13.
2. The old, old story from Abraham to Christ.

D. The Effect of the Sermon.

1. She heard, v. 14 - Importance of hearing, Jas. 1:19.
2. Lord opened her heart, v. 14.
 - a. What is the heart? Thinks, Mt. 9:4; Reasons, Mk 2:8; Understands, Mt 13:15; Believes, Rom. 10:10; Condemns, 1 Jn 3:20.
 - b. Why it needed opening:
 - 1) Not to enable her to hear (heard first) - explain "attended." προσεχειν - "to apply", ie. the mind.
 - 2) Not totally depraved - closed by Jew's conception of Christ.
 - c. How was it opened? Not direct operation. Cf. Rom 10:17; Ax 14:27; 15:7-9.
3. She believed. v. 15; Cf. Heb. 11:6.
4. Was baptized. v. 15; Cf. Mk 16:16.

E. Were infants baptized? To prove so would have to prove that Lydia was married, had children, had them with her. Cannot be saved without faith. Faith comes by hearing (understanding) the word.

III. Conclusion.

- A. The gospel addressed to hearts of men.
- B. If you would be saved, let it be opened.