



STEWARDSHIP - GENEROUS GIVING (LYDIA - ACTS 16)

(From 11/12/17 sermon - Daniel McIntosh)

I. **OPEN** - See if there is anyone who wants to share a short testimony, or if there are there specific praise updates or victories that someone might want to share.

II. **PRAY**

III. **READ TOGETHER - Acts 16:6-15**

6 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. 7 And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. 8 So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

11 So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. 13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. 14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. 15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

**Be sure to take time to slowly walk through this passage, preferably having a Bible teacher provide context and overview.*

Q - Sermon takeaways from those who were in attendance? (Spend time receiving reflections from those who were in the service.)

IV. **REFLECT**

Spencer continued with our series on *Christian Stewardship & Generous Giving* this past Sunday by introducing us to Lydia. We see early on in this passage that the Lord had clearly changed Paul's missionary journey by changing his course sending him to Macedonia to preach the Gospel to them. While there, the Lord opened up the heart of a lady named Lydia so that she could hear the Gospel and believe. Lydia had been a worshiper of God before, but now she was a follower of Jesus. And the work that Jesus had accomplished in her heart was clearly shown in the way that she "repurposed" her possessions to use them for the Kingdom.

We learn a few things about Lydia in this passage. She was a successful businesswoman as a seller of purple goods. She went from being a worshiper of God to being a Jesus follower. After her conversion, she immediately began using her wealth to serve the Kingdom. In this particular passage we see that she opened up her home to the missionaries and urged them to stay at her house. **Questions for discussion** - Especially in the south, it's easy to be a fearer of God but not actually be a Jesus-following Christian. In this passage the "Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said" by Paul regarding the Gospel. **1)** What are ways that we can clearly share the message of Jesus and the Gospel to church-attending, God-fearing folks who are not Jesus-followers? **2)** Why is this so hard to do? **3)** From this passage, why should we pray for those individuals before we share with them? **Discuss.**

We have a table on our logo for a reason. RSC believes the Gospel can be most easily lived out and communicated when we are in close proximity with our neighbors eating and fellowshiping.



Lydia had the gift of hospitality, and she pivoted toward Kingdom-mindedness in her use of this gift after coming to faith. **Q** - Has the table or a living room impacted you in your Christian walk? If so, explain...and discuss the significance hospitality in sharing the Gospel and the love of God with others, especially as we enter into the holiday season.

Notice in verses 39-40 that after Paul and Silas got out of prison they immediately went and visited Lydia in her house.

Who Is Your Lydia?	Do you have a Lydia that you go to in times of need or celebration?	Describe this relationship.
Who Do You Need to be a Lydia To?	Is there someone that could use a Lydia right now?	What steps can you take to do be a Lydia to them?

V. FURTHER APPLICATION - REPURPOSING:

Current Possessions	Non-Kingdom Usage	How to REPURPOSE for Kingdom Usage
Money		
Home		
Food		
Talents		
Time		
Other		

VI. BE ON MISSION - If you have never given an offering to RSC, we encourage you to do so. If you give but only sporadically, we encourage for you to become a regular giver. If you give regularly, we encourage you to pray about giving even more sacrificially. The point is that we simply want the body of believers who make up Red Stone Church to order their lives in such a way that they worship the Lord fully and are free from any bondage that the world might give. We want to encourage faith-driven worshipful Christian stewardship...with money, time, and talents.

VII. LOOKING AHEAD-

How can you and your family pivot to ensure that your heart and the hearts of family members are focused on the grandeur of Christ's coming during this Christmas season? How can we repossess our holiday traditions for The Kingdom?