

## *A Tale of Two Women*

February 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### *Acts 16:11-24*

God was about to establish the church at Philippi. Paul was led to this area by the Holy Spirit in a vision (*Acts 16:9*). Paul encountered two women when he arrived – women God would use to display His glory!

#### **Lydia and the Slave girl**

- Ä Lydia was a seller of purple goods – a business woman  
...The slave girl brought financial gain to businesses
- Ä Lydia was a worshipper of God  
...The slave girl had a demonic spirit
- ❖ Both women experienced the touch of God!

#### **1. Lydia**

- ❖ Lydia was named after the area in Asia Minor from which she came, in which Thyatira was a town.
- ❖ Lydia probably converted to Judaism. There was no synagogue in Philippi because it took at least 10 men to establish one. She joined a group of women for prayer by the riverside.
- ❖ Lydia was a worshipper of God! She was, however, not a Christian!  
*John 14:6* “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”
  - Ä Cornelius was in a similar state.
    - Acts 10:1-5
- ❖ The Lord opened Lydia’s heart to pay attention to the message of the gospel!
  - ◆ Paul could not convert anyone. He could only be obedient to share the truth of God’s Word!  
*Acts 13:48* “And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.”
  - ◆ Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would convince people concerning the truth God’s Word!  
*John 16:7-8* “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:”
  - ◆ Paul knew that only God could cause people to be open to the gospel!  
*1 Corinthians 16:9* “for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”  
*Colossians 4:3* “At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the Word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison – ”
  - ◆ Lydia’s conversion was due to an act of God!
- ❖ Lydia received the Word and was baptized – she was the first Christian in Philippi!

*Acts 2:41 "So those who received His word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls."*

*Acts 16:14b-15a "The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptized, and her household as well,..."*

- ❖ Lydia's entire household also believed and were baptized! ***The church at Philippi had begun!***

## 2. The Slave Girl

- ❖ The slave girl had a spirit of divination

Ä She brought gain to her owners through fortunetelling.

*Micah 5:12,15 “and I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you shall have no more tellers of fortunes; ... And in anger and wrath I will execute vengeance on the nations that did not obey.”*

- ◆ Satan is the god of this world

*2 Corinthians 4:4 “In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*

*Luke 4:5-6 “And the devil took Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to Him, ‘To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.’”*

Ä She spoke words that were true!

*Acts 16:17 “She followed Paul and us, crying out, ‘These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.’”*

- ◆ Demons during the time of Christ did the same!

*Luke 4:34 “‘Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God.’”*

*Luke 4:41 “And demons also came out of many, crying, ‘You are the Son of God!’ But He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that He was the Christ.”*

*Luke 8:28 “When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before Him and said with a loud voice, ‘What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.’”*

*James 2:19 “You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe – and shudder!”*

- ❖ The slave girl was delivered from the demon by the power of God through the Apostle Paul!

Ä Paul became annoyed and cast out the demon!

- ◆ Jesus gave His followers the power over demonic spirits!

*Matthew 10:8 “Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.”*

*Luke 10:17 “The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name!’”*

- ❖ The slave girl’s deliverance brought persecution!

- Acts 16:19-25

Jesus said,  
“... I will build my church,  
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”!  
*Matthew 16:18*

**Endnotes:**

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