

## Acts 16:6-15

1. Observation and exposition
2. The take-away for us?

### Observation and exposition

1. Read the passage [SLIDES]
2. Observation and exposition
  - a. Most of **Acts 16** is focused on Philippi, and three individuals in particular
    - i. Lydia
    - ii. A slave girl (unnamed)
    - iii. The Philippian jailer (also unnamed)
    - iv. This focus has led at least one commentator to suggest that Philippi was Luke's hometown
  - b. English and Greek pronunciation of names of people, cities, and regions [SLIDE]
    - i. Phrygia - Φρυγία
    - ii. Galatia - Γαλατικός
    - iii. Asia - Ἀσία
    - iv. Mysia - Μυσία
    - v. Bithynia - Βιθυνία
    - vi. Troas - Τρωάς
    - vii. Macedonia - Μακεδών
    - viii. Samothrace - Σαμοθράκη
    - ix. Neapolis - Νέος πόλις
    - x. Philippi - Φίλιπποι
    - xi. Lydia - Λυδία
    - xii. Thyatira - Θυάτειρα
    - xiii. Paul - Παῦλος
  - c. Paul and his companions' route on the maps [SLIDES]
  - d. The call to Macedonia (**6-10**)
    - i. Paul may have been headed for Ephesus in Asia, but God wasn't ready for him to go there just yet.
    - ii. Luke joins the team in Troas (see **v 10**)

- iii. Thoughts on Paul's planning and strategic thinking in the gospel mission
    - 1. Stott quote, back of my bible
    - 2. Compare to D-Day
  - iv. Stott's comments on three principles of divine guidance [SLIDE]
- e. Philippi and the conversion of Lydia (11-15)
- i. Roman colony? (12)
    - 1. "Roman colonies were originally settlements of Roman citizens in conquered territory, with legal rights the same as their fellow citizens in Italy. They then became places to which surplus Italian population could be assigned or where soldiers could be pensioned off with land. They had a Roman form of government, were free from tribute and taxation, and used Roman law in local as well as external matters. They were effectively a piece of Rome transplanted abroad." Peterson, 459 [SLIDE]
    - 2. Master and Commander quote
    - 3. Compare with later colonization, such as colonial America
    - 4. Philippi is the only city in Acts specifically noted as a Roman colony, though there were others (Pisidian Antioch and Troas). Apparently Luke is concerned with describing one of Paul's and the gospel's first interactions with the Roman world, apart from Jewish involvement. (Peterson, 459)
  - ii. Place of prayer? Why not the synagogue? (13)
    - 1. Probably wasn't a synagogue in Philippi. A synagogue could only be established where there were at least ten Jewish men.
    - 2. The place of prayer functions as a synagogue for these women in Philippi.
  - iii. Lydia's conversion
    - 1. According to Luke, three things were happening:
      - a. Paul was speaking
        - i. What was he saying? Probably a message similar to Paul's message at the synagogue in **13:16-41**
      - b. Lydia was listening

- i. She was a worshipper of God, but not a Jew (or a proselyte). Similar to the Ethiopian in **Acts 8** and Cornelius in **Acts 10**?
    - c. The Lord opened her heart
      - i. Regeneration? If the Lord hadn't opened her heart, would she still have believed?
      - ii. **13:48 [SLIDE]**
      - iii. **2 Corinthians 4:5-6 [SLIDE]**
      - iv. **1 Thessalonians 1:4-5 [SLIDE]**
      - v. **2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 [SLIDE]**
  - 2. Baptized immediately? Or sometime later?
  - 3. Household?
  - 4. Her hospitality and Christian fellowship
    - a. **Romans 12:13**, for example

### The take-away for us

### Resources

1. *The Acts of the Apostles*, F. F. Bruce, 1990
2. *The Book of the Acts*, F. F. Bruce, 1988
3. *The Acts of the Apostles*, David G. Peterson
4. *The Message of Acts*, John Stott
5. *The Acts of the Apostles*, Ben Witherington III
6. *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*, F. F. Bruce