

Acts 16:11-15

A Woman Named Lydia

Paul is traveling with Silas and Timothy. From Troas they put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day they went on to Neapolis. From there they traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And they stayed there several days.

On the Sabbath they went outside the city gate to the river, where they expected to find a place of prayer. They sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited them to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded them.

Every Day with God

When I was young we would go to our neighbor's house to have a piece of homemade bread with lard and sugar spread on top. We wanted the lard spread thick. Yes, it was good!

Lydia was a worshiper of God but, like we learned about Cornelius in Acts 10, Lydia had not yet heard the gospel. God rerouted Paul and friends and also ensured that Lydia would be in the right place at the right time to encounter Paul and hear the good news of Jesus. And, as Lydia heard the gospel, God opened her heart so that she received the good news message.



Photo: Spreading lard and spreading the word.

It's interesting how Paul, no matter where he goes, is ready to spread the word. He realizes that God intended for him to do this just as God intended us to do the same. And, he wants us to spread the good news thick.

Prayer: Help me, Lord, to spread the good news and do it thick.