

Lydia: Called to Serve

Acts 16:11-15, 40

1 Corinthians 1:26-30

Outline

Acts 16:11-15, 40

1 Corinthians 1:26-30

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Acts 16:11-13
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1 Corinthians 1:29-30

Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Paul's Second Missionary Journey

The wisdom and greatness of God's plan:

In Paul's mind, he wanted to reach a few cities in his region. But God wanted to give Paul a continent to win for Jesus Christ.

The Ministry at Philippi

Acts 16:11-13

¹¹Therefore, sailing from Troas, **we ran a straight course** to Samothrace, and the next *day* came to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days.

- Paul and his team had to sail across the Aegean Sea, from the continent of Asia to the continent of Europe.
- The wind was at their backs – sailed 156 miles in just 2 days

The Conversion of Lydia

Acts 16:14-15, 40

Lydia... was a seller of purple: Anyone who was a seller of **purple** dealt in a valued, luxurious product. The dyes used for making purple were expensive and highly regarded. This woman was the first convert in Europe.

The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul: Before Lydia was converted, **the Lord opened her heart**. This is a work God must do in all who believe, because as Jesus said, *no one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him* ([John 6:44](#)).

The Wisdom of the Cross

1 Corinthians 1:26-28

Suddenly there was a great earthquake: This earthquake was clearly supernatural. This was not only because of its timing and location, but also in the way that **all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.**

The keeper of the prison...was about to kill himself: The jailer did this for a good reason. Under Roman law and custom, guards who allowed their prisoners to escape received the penalty of their escaped prisoners.

Paul assured the jailer that no one had escaped.

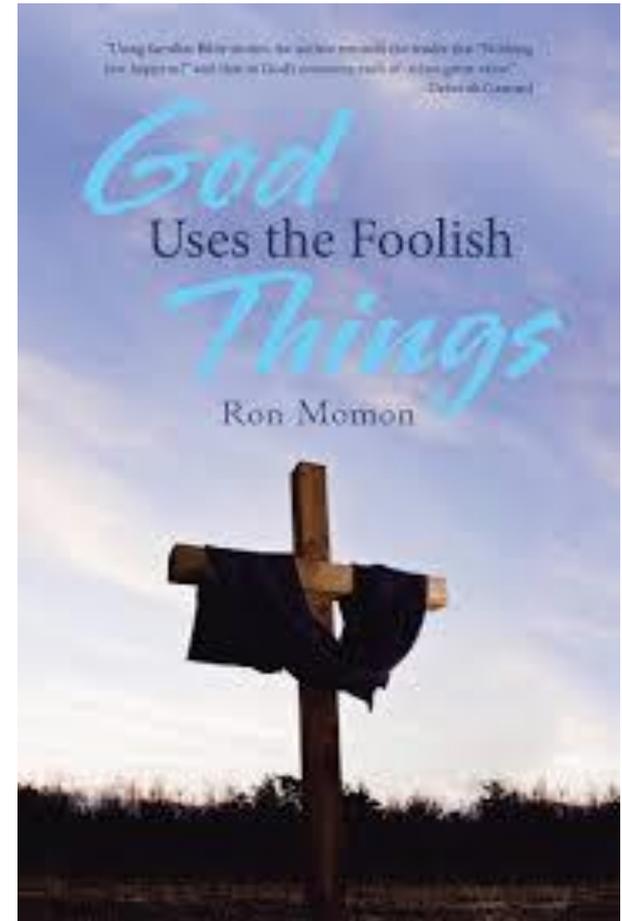
Glorying in the Cross

For the message of the cross is **foolishness** to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of **God**. ...

For the **foolishness** of **God** is wiser than **man's wisdom**, and the weakness of **God** is stronger than **man's strength**. Brothers, think of what you were when you were called.

Glorying in the Cross

As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians, God chose the cross to show His wisdom instead of using what was already honored and revered in *any* human society.



Glorying in the Cross



Promoting a Ministry of Hospitality

Acts 28:7

Romans 12:13; 16:23

1 Timothy 5:10 Titus 1:8

Hebrews 13:2

1 Peter 4:9

2 John 9-11

3 John 8

Serving as God Desires

We've explored the examples of Anna, the prophetess daughters of Philip, the Samaritan woman, Mary Magdalene, and Priscilla.

In Lydia's case, she used her status and wealth to serve God. Her influence brought her household to Christ and had a ripple effect in Philippi.

We might summarize the accounts from this unit by saying each woman served where God gave her opportunity and gifting.

Glorying in the Cross





*What's
your
hospitality
plan?*