

March 15, 2015

“The Lord Opened Her Heart”

Acts 16:1-15

What explains the line between faith and un-faith?

- i. Nature
- ii. Nurture
- iii. Experience
- iv. Winsome presentation
- v. Personal decision

Why messages like March 1?

1. To be “Bereans” who “**received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.**” (Acts 17:11)

2. To see the “God-thread” in the tapestry of the book of Acts. “**And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved**” (Acts 2:47).

“And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them” (Acts 4:33-34).

“...and all who were appointed for eternal life believed” (Acts 13:48).

“When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed” (Acts 18:27).

Acts 16:1-15 (3 short but crucial stories)

1. **Verses 1-5:** Gentiles do not have to become Jews in order to be followers of Jesus
 2. **Verses 6-10:** the message of Jesus moves from Asia to Europe
 3. **Verse 11-15:** Lydia responds to the message of Jesus
- Philippi:
 - “they probably headed toward the Gangites River about a mile and a half west of the city”
 - Lydia from the city of Thyatira [400 km east of Philippi], a dealer in purple cloth.
 - Lydia was a worshiper of God (a “God fearer”).

“The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message” (Acts 16:14)

1. She could not open her own heart
2. “Heart” = the seat of thought, emotion, will
3. “Opening” her heart like Jesus opened up the eyes of the blind (Mark 7:34; Luke 24:31)

Prayer for God to “open hearts”...