

The Conversion of Lydia (Acts 16:6-15)

- Lydia – remarkable woman
 - From Thyatira, now about 300 miles from home
 - Business woman, selling purple, comfortable operating business away from home
 - Worshiped God in a heathen city (Roman colony in Greece)
 - Either Jew or devout woman converted to Judaism
- Sabbath Day
 - Of no consequence to heathen city
 - No synagogue; no Jewish men to conduct service; no excuses
 - Closed business on Sabbath to worship – left city to worship
 - Supposed place of prayer – custom for some time
 - Faithful when away from home, regardless of convenience
- Opened her heart – what was the defect in her heart?
 - Not total depravity – clearly dedicated
 - Dedication would put to shame many today
 - Heart was closed to something—likely the idea that Messiah was anything other than a physical king to restore Jewish kingdom
 - 2 Cor. 3:12-16
 - Heard gospel; opened heart; gave heed
 - Needed gospel and obedience to it
- Lord opened heart
 - While Lydia was meeting on Sabbaths, God arranged for Paul to get there