

Conversions in Acts



Lesson 5 – Conversions at Philippi Reading Assignment: Acts 16:11-40

I. Lydia – Acts 16:11-15

- What do you know about the city of Philippi?
- Why did Paul not go to the synagogue on Saturday?
- Who is Lydia and what do you know of her?
- Where is Thyatira?
- What is a “seller of purples fabrics”?
- What does it mean to be “a worshiper of God”?
- How did Lydia respond to the words spoken by Paul?
- Who might have made up the household of Lydia?
- What “gift” did Lydia offer to Paul?

¹¹So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a *Roman* colony; and we were staying in this city for some days. ¹³And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled. A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. ¹⁵And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

II. Slave Girl – Acts 16:16-24

- What is this slave girl doing to bring profit to her owners?
- What is the source of the “spirit of divination”?
- Why was Paul annoyed at what this girl kept saying?
- Why are the owners of this girl upset?
- What do the owners of the girl do to Paul and Silas?
- What is the charge made against Paul and Silas?
- What is the punishment given to Paul and Silas?
- Was the slave girl converted?

¹⁶It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. ¹⁷Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, “These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation.” ¹⁸She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!” And it came out at that very moment. ¹⁹But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities, ²⁰and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, “These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews, ²¹and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans.”

III. The Jailer – Acts 16:25-35

- How is Paul and Silas spending their time in jail?
- What happens about midnight?
- How did the jailer react?
- What did Paul do to prevent the jailer's suicide?
- Why do you think the other prisoners didn't escape?
- What is the jailer's reaction to Paul's words?
- What is Paul's answer to the jailer's question?
- This is the first conversion account where someone is told to "believe in the Lord Jesus". Why do you think that is?
- What did Paul do then?
- To whom is the word of the Lord spoken?
- What did the jailer do for Paul and Silas?
- When was the jailer and his household baptized?
- What emotion is exhibited in the jailer?
- Have we seen this "joy" in any other conversion account?

The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods. ²³ When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; ²⁴ and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; ²⁶ and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!" ²⁹ And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰ and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹ They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household. ³⁴ And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.