

The Conversion of a Businesswoman

Text: Acts 16:6-15

Introduction:

- A. Many women today are vitally concerned with being considered the equal of men.
 - B. The gospel has done more to elevate women than any protest movement ever conceived.- Galatians 3:28
 - C. One of the most remarkable women of the Bible was Lydia.
 - D. What can we learn from the example of Lydia about our own salvation?
- I. What kind of woman was she?
- A. "Lydia": Greek name, perhaps a proselyte- verse 14
 - B. "a seller of purple"(fine cloth dyed with expensive purple dye obtained from a sea mollusk for which the women of Thyatira were famous): a wealthy business woman- verse 14; cf. Luke 16:19
 - 1. Business affairs did not make her worldly. for she was engaged in worship.- verse 14; Matthew 5:16
 - 2. Although heathen competitors were open for business, she closed shop to worship God.- verse 14; Matthew 6:33
 - C. Although she could have had many excuses not to worship, she was faithful.
 - 1. away from home- verses 12,14
 - 2. no men present- verse 13
 - 3. no fancy, comfortable building- verse 13
 - D. Obviously she was a good woman, but she needed salvation.- Romans 3:23; 6:23
- II. How did the Lord open her heart?- verse 14
- A. What is the Bible heart?- Matthew 13:15; Romans 10:10
 - B. How was her heart closed?
 - 1. not by depravity- verses 13-14
 - 2. not by refusal to hear (heard first)- verse 14
 - 3. prejudice- cf. 1 Corinthians 1:23
 - C. Her heart was opened by the preaching of the gospel.- Acts 16:6-11; cf. John 6:44-45
- III. Is this a case of infant baptism?- verse 15
- A. "Household" may not include infants.- Acts 10:46; 15:9; 16:34; 1 Corinthians 1:16; 16:15
 - B. There is no proof of infant baptism in Lydia's case.- cf. Mark 16:16
 - 1. Was she married?
 - 2. Did she have children?
 - 3. Were they with her?
 - 4. Were they infants?
- IV. What did Lydia do?
- A. She heard the word.- verse 14; cf. Romans 10:14-17
 - B. She attended to the word.- verse 14; James 1:22; Acts 3:19; Romans 10:9
 - C. Thus. she was baptized.- verse 15
 - D. Then she practiced hospitality.- verse 15; Matthew 28:19,20
- Conclusion:
- A. If you are mature enough to hear and attend to the word, you should, as Lydia. do so without delay.- verses 14,15
 - B. Will you not follow her example?