

Wednesday night Bible study

March 17, 2021

Journey through the book of Acts

Acts 16:11-15

After being kept from preaching the word in the province of Asia, Paul had a vision of a man from Macedonia calling out to him to come, "Come over to Macedonia to help us." Paul and the team (including Luke) got ready at once to go.

What do we know of Philippi from verse 12? What else do we know?

On his first missionary journey, Paul's practice was to go directly to the synagogue. This time, Paul and the crew initially set out to check on the believers (15:36) and to strengthen the churches, but then there was the vision which took them straight back to mission work. Where did our missionaries go on the Sabbath? Why not the synagogue?

What were they expecting to find there? What expectations does our community – or the Church at large – have of us? Do we have similar expectations of other churches?

In verse 14 we are introduced to Lydia, one of the women who had gathered for prayer and for reading/discussing the Law. What does the fact that she was a dealer in purple cloth tell us?

Think back to Cornelius in Acts 10:2. What must we keep in mind about Lydia's own faith, if she known as a worshiper of God? What must we remember about our friends in similar situations? Does that make you want to be more clear when describing your own faith?

What enabled her to receive Paul's message? Is that still necessary? (Consider 13:48) have you ever attempted to manhandle a conversion experience or to wrangle someone into a prayer of confession? What are you learning about such things?

What does the baptism of Lydia and her family suggest?