

## Study notes based on Sunday 7 October 2018

### Lydia Acts 16:11-15 John Smith

1. Read Acts 16: 1-10 Consider the way in which Paul and his associates ended up in Philippi. What factors were at play here? Share any closed door experiences you may have had, which turned out to be beneficial in the long run. Has anyone experience of guidance through vision?
2. Do you think Philippi looked promising as far mission was concerned? Why or why not?
3. Paul is often labelled a misogynist. What does this passage say to us about his attitude to women? Do you think this has wider application for us?
4. What significance do you see in Lydia being a business woman?
5. Lydia was a worshipper of God. In your experience have you found people who have some religious background more or less receptive to the gospel?
6. Do you think I was being fair on Sunday morning to suggest that Lydia was the equivalent today to a nominal Christian or a fringe member? What evidence do you find in the passage that she might have been a genuine seeker after truth?
7. What do you think would have been the content of Paul's teaching in this context?
8. 'the Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message' What does this tell us about the dynamic of preaching or evangelism?
9. How do you respond to the description of baptism following on straight after conversion?
10. Read Acts 16:40. What do we learn about the first church in Europe?
11. In what ways do you think Lydia was a strategic convert in a strategic place? See Revelation 2: 18-19. How do we respond to the rebuke in v20ff?
12. What do we learn from Lydia's story that encourages us as disciples today?

John S Smith

10 October 2018