

# BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

## SERMON OUTLINE

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APRIL 29, 2018

### “Lydia The Business Woman – Who Was and Everyday Hero”

#### Acts 16:11-15

We are speaking about Everyday Hero’s found in the Bible. Thus far, we have spoken about **Philip**, the Evangelist; **Barnabas**, the Encourager and **Steven**, the deacon Who Stood Tall. Now this morning, I want us to examine the life of an ordinary woman whose name is **Lydia** an ideal business woman.

It is important to note that here was a woman who was not identified by whose wife *she was instead* she was identified by *what she did*. **She wasn’t Lydia Bob’s wife - she was Lydia from Thyatira**, a merchant of expensive purple cloth.

Just a little background to passage: Immediately following the “*Macedonian vision*” of verse nine (*V-9*), this band of missionaries sailed directly to Macedonia. And as Paul’s habit would have been, they were heading for the synagogue on the Sabbath, but in Philippi there was not enough men to have a synagogue.

Three things come to my mind about Lydia and how God so astonishingly works in her heart.

1. She Was in the **Right Place**
2. She was there at the **Right Time**
3. She Made a **Right Decision**

I see four lessons from Lydia’s life that we can apply to our lives.

#### I. LOOK FOR OPEN DOORS

God uses closed doors to put us in situations for His message to get out to the people He has already prepared to hear it. In **verse 6 is a closed door and also in V-7.**

The second lesson we learn from Lydia is . . .

#### II. MAKE GOD’S PLACE A PRIORITY

Look now at the first half of **verse 13.**

While this traveling trader was no doubt a successful businesswoman, she was “*one of those listening*,” (**V-14**) which meant that Lydia was locked in. Note also that she was a “*worshiper of God*.” (**V-14**). Let me make the obvious point that Lydia, a busy businesswoman, did not give up meeting with others on the Sabbath.

The third lesson we learn from Lydia is . . .

#### III. GO THROUGH OPEN DOORS

As she was listening to the words of these messengers, “*The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message*.” (**V-14**).

God is sovereignly at work behind the scenes, even when we’re not aware of it. Think with me about how God put Lydia and Paul together at that exact moment.

The fourth lesson is Lydia . . .

#### IV. DEMONSTRATE OUTWARD EVIDENCE OF INWARD CHANGE

After Lydia’s conversion, **verse 15** tells us that she and the members of her household were “*baptized*”.

At its most basic level, **baptism is a public declaration of an inner decision**. After being saved, she wasted no time in outwardly identifying herself with her Savior. The order in the Book of Acts is clear: **Believe and be baptized**. Here’s just one example from Acts 2:41.

Our text shows us two things that happen right after conversion.

- ◆ **Profession of faith in baptism**
- ◆ **Provision of hospitality**

I love Lydia’s modesty in **verse 15**

The word “*hospitality*” is similar to the word “*hospital*.” Just as a hospital is a place for healing and wholeness; our homes should be places for refreshment and restoration. **Romans 12:13.**

#### Lydia’s Life Lessons we can learn:

**When God opens the door of salvation, go through**

**When God shuts a door, go through the one He opens**

**Help others go through open doors by seeking to lead others to Christ**