

# Are You Ready?

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'So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; and 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. And 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. And 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.

ACTS 16:11-15

Sometimes our plans don't go the way we think they should. Often those are the times that God gives us opportunities to share the gospel with others. Here we see the account of Paul's journey from town to town and that they finally stop in Philippi, seeking out a place to rest. They thought that the river would be restful and a place for prayer, but we see quite the opposite. These men stopped to speak with the women who were assembled at the river. Why were the women there? The text doesn't say, but rather than just brush them off, Paul takes the opportunity to speak to them about Jesus and the salvation that is offered through Him.

Too often we are hurried with little available time to rest, nonetheless we should engage in a gospel conversation. Lydia ends up becoming the first Gentile believer in Europe and an important supporter of the Church because of Paul's readiness to engage others with the gospel at any moment, even when they were just wanting to rest. God doesn't ask us to change peoples' hearts. That's His job, but it is our job to be available and ready to speak His name to others. Are you ready?

- Strive to be sensitive to the Spirit when He puts opportunities in your day to share the gospel with others.
- Remember that our responsibility is be faithful to share. God is the one who changes hearts.