



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of December 7, 2025

Acts 16:14-18 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. 15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us. 16 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." 18 And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

1. Our passage this week portrays two women, Lydia and the slave girl. How were the two women different? How were they the same? From a human perspective, who do you think was easier to save?
2. What was absolutely necessary in order for either woman to be saved? What role does faith and human will play in salvation?
3. Look again at Acts 16:15 and explain the dramatic change that took place in Lydia's life and why you think those changes took place. How have you seen this kind of change in your own life?
4. The slave girl in our passage had a spirit of divination which enabled her to do fortune telling. What do you think is behind these supernatural "powers"? Do these kinds of powers manifest themselves today in the 21st century? If so, how and what is the Christian to do?
5. The devil will tell you 100 things that are true in order to deceive you with one thing that is false. Have you seen Christians being deceived in this way? If so, how? Why is this kind of deception so bad?
6. Discernment is not the ability to tell the difference between right and wrong, but the ability to tell the difference between right, and almost right. How can you make sure you have good discernment and are not being deceived?
7. Whether a rich businesswoman or a captive slave, both are saved only through the miraculous work of God. How should this knowledge bring hope to all people? How should this knowledge help to create unity within the church?