**10 – Heart of Lydia**

*Acts 16:13-15; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6*

**Prayer by the River**

* It was likely that Philippi had no Jewish Synagogue due to the few number of Jews.
	+ The scripture only mentions women which is likely another reason there wasn’t a Synagogue. (Required Jewish men in order to have one.)
* The Jews gathered by a river likely to perform their ceremonial washings.
	+ Proselytes (Gentiles converted to Judaism) would have gathered as well.

**Lydia**

* From Thyatira – a city in Asia Minor.
* She was described as one ***“who worshiped God” (v. 14)*.**
	+ Used to describe proselytes in other scriptures (**cf. Cornelius – Acts 10:2, 34-35; Paul to those in synagogue – 13:16)**
* It may be that Lydia was a Jew, but it may be she was a Gentile converted to Judaism.
	+ **This could be another indication of her heart (mention later).**

***“The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.”***

* Doctrine of direct operation of the Holy Spirit.
	+ This is claimed to be necessary by Calvinists because of **“Hereditary Total Depravity.”**
		- It teaches, “from this original corruption (sin of Adam and Eve), whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions” (The Presbyterian Confession of Faith, Chapter 6: V).
			* ***“The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself” (Ezekiel 18:20).***
		- **Man is so far gone that he does not have the ability to comprehend scripture. 🡪**
	+ **This leads to the necessity of God intervening directly on the heart of the individual to be able to comprehend His scripture.**
	+ There are several problems with this… 🡪
		- **Contradicts God’s Omnipotence**
			* ***“I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You” (Job 42:2).***
			* **Matthew 19:23-26** – God has the capability of making salvation possible for mankind.
			* **Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18, 21** – The gospel message is that which God chose to save man.
			* **The claim that man cannot understand God’s word apart from miraculous Divine intervention on the heart directly undermines His all-powerful nature**.
				+ ***“But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect” (Romans 9:6)*** – Speaking of the Jews who rejected the gospel and therefore were rejected by God. It was not that the message wasn’t sufficient or powerful enough.
		- **This would show that God is not impartial.**
			* **Acts 10:34** – God shows no partiality.
			* **Titus 2:11** – The grace of God appears to all.
			* **John 3:16** – Whoever!
			* **If those who reject the gospel do so because of their inability to understand it, it must mean (according to this doctrine) that God decided not to give them the ability.**
* **How did the Lord open Lydia’s heart?**
	+ ***“Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us” (16:14)*.**
		- They went that way to preach the gospel **(16:10)**. This is what they spoke to them about **(16:13).** And that is what Lydia heard.
			* **This was the working of God – through His word (cf. Hebrews 1:1-2; 2:3 –** The word of Christ is that through which God works on the hearts of men**). 🡪**
		- ***“opened her heart to heed the things spoken”***
			* Heed – hold the mind towards; pay attention to; be cautious about; apply oneself to, adhere to.
				+ Same word used in **1 Timothy 4:13**. (Something Timothy was expected not just to hear, but to do, to observe.)
				+ ***After hearing she was baptized (Obeyed).***
			* **Hebrews 4:12** – God’s word discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart.
				+ God opened her heart (via the word) and revealed the character of Lydia to be one that intended to obey what God said. (Opened her heart to HEED).
* **The Heart of Lydia – one she prepared herself.**
	+ Parable of sower – **Luke 8:11-15** – The failure of the seed in the various soils was always due to the soil itself. (This is something prepared, or not prepared, by the individual) 🡪
	+ ***“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it springs the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23).***
	+ **James 1:19-21** – God did not say He would remove those things. This is our responsibility.
	+ **Acts 17:11** – The Bereans took it upon themselves to prepare their hearts for the truth.
	+ **It was possible that Lydia was a proselyte – meaning, as a Gentile, she recognized the Jews to be the people of God, worshiping Him as He commanded, and had the heart to come to Him in submission.**
		- **This action upon hearing the gospel would prove her honest heart void of ulterior motives.**

**2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

* **Those who do not obey the gospel do so because they would rather do worldly things.**
* **2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 – They had pleasure in unrighteousness and didn’t love the truth.**
* **John 1:5, 10-11; 3:16-21 – The rejection of the truth is not because God did not give them the ability to understand it, but that they did not like what they heard and therefore rebelled.**