



UNSHAKEABLE

WIDE OPEN

Acts 16:13 – 19 (ESV)

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MESSAGE NOTES

And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. 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 ...

– Acts 16:13 – 14 (ESV)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." – Acts 1:8 (ESV)

... The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. – Acts 16:14 (ESV)

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. – John 6:44 (ESV)

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. – Acts 16:15 (ESV)

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. – Acts 16:16 (ESV)

She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she kept doing for many days ... – Acts 16:17 – 18 (ESV)

You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! – James 2:19 (ESV)

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. – Acts 16:18 (ESV)

God is the one who opens hearts, lives and homes

Just as there were many who were appalled at Him—His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and His form marred beyond human likeness ... – Isaiah 52:14 (NIV)

... He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him.

... Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised ... – Isaiah 53:2 – 3 (NIV)



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion Starter: Ask someone in your group to share how they came to know Christ.
- Read Acts 1:8. Try to say the verse from memory to someone near you, or try paraphrasing it. Who is in your “*Jerusalem*” right now and how is God opening up doors for you to be a “*witness*”?
- What was a key learning point for you from the message this week?
- Read Acts 16:13 – 14. Lydia was a “*worshipper of God*,” but was she was still missing the most important thing in her journey to a relationship with Him. What was Lydia missing until God brought Paul and Barnabas into her life?
- A “*bridgehead*” in the military is a technique where troops land behind enemy lines and establish a small, defensible foothold which expands as more troops join the force. Where might God have already placed you as a “*bridgehead*” in reaching people for Christ? Where have you seen the Holy Spirit moving through you or around you?
- Lydia didn’t just believe in Christ, she also discovered Christ to be wonderful. How has God captured both your mind and heart? What are some things that make God powerful and wonderful to you?
- Lydia opened her heart to Christ and soon opened her home as a place of ministry. What might God want you to open up next for Him so your life can become a ministry center—your time, your hobby, your talent, your finances, etc.?
- The slave girl was oppressed and exploited by her owners. She was a slave on the inside to her inner demons and a slave on the outside to her owners. How did God bring freedom to her? What does her story look like in our world?
- Lydia and the slave girl had very different salvation experiences, showing us that no matter who we are, Jesus is our ultimate need. How is their story of finding Christ similar to or different from yours?
- Pray for our Global Partners, Sydney and Ivana, and their ministry in North Africa. Ask God to continue opening doors, bringing many people to Christ, and sending additional ministry partners to assist them.