

Mindful Monday May 26, 2025

“Lydia”

Pastor Dianna introduced us to Lydia in her sermon on Sunday. The story of Lydia is a powerful one. It is written in Acts 16: 11-15. She was a significant figure in the New Testament and was recognized as the first convert to Christianity in Europe. Some denominations have sanctioned her as a saint. She is regularly known as “St. Lydia” or simply, “The Woman of Purple”.

Lydia was originally from the city of Thyatira. She was living in Philippi when she met Paul on his second missionary journey. She was a wealthy seller of purple cloth, which Thyatira was famous for, being that it was a center of the indigo trade. She was a worshipper of God, and when Paul found her, she was observing the Sabbath. This means that she was likely a Jew.

When she heard the Gospel of Jesus, the Bible says that God opened her heart to pay attention to what Paul was saying. After she believed, she was baptized along with her household. Whether “her household” refers to her family, or whether the servants were included. After her conversion and baptism, she insisted that Paul and his friends come to stay in her home, if they judged her to be “a believer in the Lord” (Acts 16:15). Luke states that, “she prevailed upon us,” which might show her desire to be hospitable. They did judge her to be a true believer, and they stayed in her home when they came to Philippi. It was also a meeting place for believers.

When Paul embarked on his second journey, he had intended to stay in Asia, but God changed his plans and called him westward across the Aegean Sea and into Macedonia. Later in Biblical history, we discover there was a church set up in Thyatira (Revelation 2:18). Since Paul did not visit that city in any of his journeys. It is thought that Lydia brought the gospel to her hometown.

The story of Lydia in the Bible is one example of God’s providence and His care for believers. Jesus said, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them”. Let us pray that we are drawn to God and His will for us in our daily lives.

We continue to pray for Craig Horrigan’s recuperation. On the prayer list are George Barlow, David Ingram, Fink Family, Jerry & Bea Gilland, Judy Helm-Burns, Joanne Reiman, and Floyd & Dona Seiberling.