

SERMON OUTLINE

'PROMOTING THE GOSPEL'

Study - 7

'Sharing the gospel - the example of Paul'

Acts 16 v11 - 40

Key Question - Who is the gospel for?

Key Verse - Jn 3 v16. The gospel of Jesus is for the 'whoever's' of this world. We see this here in how Paul met and shared this gospel with 3 people who were so very different to each other in a number of different ways - the business woman, the slave girl, the local jailer.

A. THEY WERE DIFFERENT IN TERMS OF THEIR RACIAL ORIGIN

Lydia - was from Asia (Thyatira)

The slave girl - was most probably from Greece.

The jailer - was almost certainly from Rome.

B. THEY WERE DIFFERENT IN TERMS OF THEIR SOCIAL STATUS

Lydia - was upper class

The slave girl - was lower class

The jailer - was middle class

C. THEY WERE DIFFERENT IN TERMS OF THEIR SPIRITUAL STATE

Lydia - was interested in Judaism's God

The slave girl - was enslaved to dark forces

The jailer - was hardened by life itself

Key Question - How did these 3 people (so different to each other) come to saving faith through Paul's sharing of the gospel?

Key Point - We need to have confidence in the gospel!

Key Verse - Rom 1 v16. Because there is power in the gospel - there is no-one who is beyond its reach.

1. THE BUSINESS WOMAN WHO WAS INTERESTED IN JUDAISM'S GOD

See - v13 - 14a. What happened? It was all so simple:-

A. PAUL INFORMED HER MIND

He spoke - she listened! Clearly, he talked to her about the God she was worshipping - who He was, what He was like, what He had done. And clearly he would have spoken about Jesus - who He was and what He had done.

B. GOD OPENED HER HEART

See - v14b. She was converted! Nothing dramatic - it all happened so very quietly and so very gently. Key Point - Be faithful in your speaking, and leave the rest to God!

2. THE YOUNG GIRL WHO WAS ENSLAVED TO DARK FORCES

She was in a double bondage - to her slave owners and to Satan. See - v16 - 17. What was happening here?

A. SATAN WAS DISCREDITING THE GOSPEL

B. THIS GIRL HERSELF WAS CRYING OUT FOR HELP

She received it. See - v18.

3. THE LOCAL JAILER WHO WAS HARDENED BY LIFE ITSELF

What did it require to break this hard man's heart? An earthquake to put the fear of death into him! See - v26 - 30. Note - the straight answer to the straight question. See - v31.

Note - Of these 3 people converted, one was a Gentile - the jailer, one was a slave - the young girl, and one was a woman - Lydia. Application - See - Gal 3 v28.