

of her faith but rather sought to deepen her faith and saw in Paul, a path toward that deeper faith. How about you? What is your deepest motivation? Between faith and fear, which would you identify as your personal motivation? Contemplate these questions and write your reflections here.

Thursday, August 15

Read Acts 16:9-40. These verses contain the only two mentions of Lydia's name in our scripture. Yet we can surmise a great deal about her life, her business, her faith and her way of living. We can create a profile of what motivated her in life and how she related to others. Even when Paul and Silas had spent time in prison and were miraculously released, she welcomed them into her home. Lydia sought to live out her faith in relationship to those she must have believed God had sent her. While Lydia's heart was open to receive God's direction and influence in her life, Paul was there to cultivate within her longing spirit a deep appreciation for the wholeness and salvation Jesus offers. How do you operate in the world when it comes to your faith? How open is your life, your heart, your mind to what God may be presenting you with? Think about your openness to God's leading in your life and write your ideas here.

Friday, August 16

Spend today contemplating the life of Lydia. Think about how your faith is expressed in your daily living. How do you express your faith at work, in organizations in which you are involved, with your family, with strangers in the "marketplace?" Would the people with whom you interact know that you are a follower of Jesus the Christ? Write your thoughts here and pray for the courage to be motivated by your faith, not focusing on your fears.

Message Notes – August 11, 2024

*Women of the Bible – Lydia, The First European Convert**

- I. I've mentioned a couple of times during this series of messages how the introduction of academic discipline into Biblical study has only existed in just the last ____ years.
 - A. Some of these disciplines haven't been around too long themselves; _____, for example really wasn't developed until the late 1800's.
 - B. _____ has only been around for about 250 years.
 - C. Lydia's name is mentioned only _____ in our Greek New Testament.
- II. Our text for today introduces us to the apparently _____ woman, Lydia.
 - A. She owns a _____ and a _____. She's a "dealer in purple cloth." (16:14)
 - B. The color purple is significant because purple clothing is the mark of _____ and _____ in the Roman world.
 - C. We're told that Lydia is originally from the city of Thyratira in what is today _____.
 1. An old inscription on a building in Thyratira indicated that it was a place where people _____.
 2. We can safely assume that business was _____.
 - D. We can understand if Lydia was a bit hesitant in proclaiming herself to be a _____-follower. She had a lot to _____.
- III. I want for us to consider today is Lydia's _____ for her actions in response to her interaction with Paul and Silas.

*Acts 16:9-40

- A. Lydia is motivated by _____, not by _____.
- B. In time, Lydia's house becomes a center of Christian _____ and _____ in Philippi.
- C. Paul writes "You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of _____ and _____, except you alone" (Philippians 4:15).
 - 1. They were the _____ ones. The hospitable ones. The _____ ones.
 - 2. And it all started with Lydia, a woman who chose _____ over _____.

- IV. Lydia, the seller of purple cloth is an _____ who clearly demonstrated that she was motivated by faith and not fear.
 - A. Just as Lydia 2000 years ago gathered with a group of women in a place of _____ so do the members of our _____ Ministry here at Central Church.
 - B. So, what is it that _____ has put you here to do?
 - C. Where is God at work in your _____ ... right _____, right _____?
 - D. Ask yourself how and where are you practicing courageous _____ and _____; in line with what God is doing in your life?

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, August 12

Pastor Jack mentioned for the third time during this series of message titled *Women of the Bible* the introduction of various academic disciplines to supplement our study of scripture. He mentioned psychology, sociology, anthropology, archaeology and feminist theology. What other disciplines can you imagine being

helpful in studying scripture? It is wise to look at our scripture through the scope of these disciplines to deepen our understanding of the timeless message of God's Word. What do you think? Contemplate the disciplines and others that you may have thought of and write your reflections here.

Tuesday, August 13

In counseling people who come to me to be married, I (Pastor Jack) use an inventory called Prepare-Enrich. This psychological evaluative tool saves me hours of interviewing couple preparing for marriage. Finances are an important part of that preparation. It is observed by some experts that men and women have traditionally viewed money differently stating that men look at money as status and power whereas women view money from the perspective of security. We should be able to understand that intuitively since traditional roles of men and women have been very different in the past. The security of women has been dependent on the providence of a spouse's salary. As mentioned in the message, Lydia was a successful businesswoman, meaning that she had a lot to lose. If people determined her faith was counterproductive to their business relationship with her, Lydia could literally lose her livelihood. So here we have another discipline at work while trying to understand Lydia. What are your thoughts? Write them here.

Wednesday, August 14

Read Acts 16:9-15. In these verses we discover Lydia's motivation of faith over fear. It is obvious that Lydia possessed a thirst for God (Psalm 42:2) and was looking for meaning and purpose for her life. Perhaps Lydia felt so blessed by her life that she wanted to express that blessing to others and so she was radically hospitable to Paul and Silas. Lydia didn't count the cost