



Title | Not What You Expected
Series | The Church That Changed the World
Text | Acts 16:11-15
By | Bob Kerrey
Date | September 4, 2021

Sermon Notes

Acts 16:11 So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, **12** and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. **13** 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. **14** 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. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. **15** 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. *ESV*

Big Idea:

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

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

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read Acts 16:11-15. List all of the things that Paul and his companions encountered in Philippi, but likely did not expect.

Tuesday:

From Acts 16:11-15, how did God provide for Paul's ministry? How was this provision unexpected or countercultural? In what ways is Lydia the embodiment of unexpected provision?

Wednesday:

Acts 16:11-15 provides an example that encourages us to hold tightly to God's faithfulness to provide, but also to hold loosely to our expectations of exactly how he is going to do it. Why is this both important and challenging?

Thursday:

Consider examples from your own life where God provided in a way that you did not expect. Also, consider other examples from Scripture where God provided in a way that people did not expect. What can we learn from these examples?

Friday:

Where God guides, he provides, but not always as expected. How can you apply this idea to your life right now?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, thank you that where you guide you provide, and thankfully, not always as expected. Help me to tether my hopes to your character and your word, not my often-myopic expectations. Amen.