

## **Lydia**

Acts 15:36 – 16:15

by Don Falkos

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Paul and Barnabas decided to go back to all the towns they had previously visited and see how the new believers were doing. Barnabas wanted to take John Mark with them; Paul didn't like the idea since John Mark had deserted them on their first trip. Tempers flared, and they ended up going their separate ways. Barnabas took John Mark and sailed for Cyprus. Paul chose Silas as his companion, heading north through Syria and then west through Cilicia. In Lystra, they were joined by a young disciple named Timothy. In order that he might be accepted into Jewish synagogues, Paul arranged for Timothy, a Gentile, to be circumcised.

They traveled from place to place encouraging the believers and giving them the guidance offered by the leadership in Jerusalem. The churches grew in faith and in numbers.

One night Paul had a vision. A man from Macedonia in northern Greece stood there pleading with him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Paul and his entourage left at once, sailed to Macedonia, and went to Philippi, where they stayed for several days.

On the Sabbath they went down along the river, where they'd been told people would be meeting to pray. They talked with the women who had gathered there. One of them was Lydia, a dealer in expensive purple cloth. Listening to Paul, Lydia believed. She was baptized along with everyone in her household. Then she invited Paul and the others to be guests in her home. They hesitated, but she persuaded them.