

PRC Community Groups

Providence Road Church



Sermon Series: Acts: To the Ends of the Earth

Message: The Christian Life is No Private Matter

Passage: Acts 16:11-25

Date Preached: February 17th, 2013

Going Deeper

1. Look at a Biblical Map and trace Paul's first and second missionary journeys. Discuss their travels in Chapters 15 and 16 as they followed God's leading to Troas and finally their entrance into Masedonia.
2. Contrast the Christianity found in the book of Acts with today's American Christianity. What are some differences? Based on the evidence found in the book of Acts, should Christians live out their faith privately or publicly? Why or why not? Read Matthew 5:14-16
3. Why would Paul and his companions join a prayer meeting outside the city gate on the Sabbath? Who was present there? What was the outcome of the meeting?
4. Who was Lydia and what was the significance of her salvation? *[Her salvation reveals to us how God saves. The fact that she was a worshipper and seeker of God was not out of her own doing but the work of God who calls men to salvation, John 6:44, John 6:37. In addition, her salvation was significant in that she was the first convert in what would be known as Europe. She's also a reminder that the gospel is for all - Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."]*
5. What were Satan's tactics in suppressing the gospel from making its way through Philippi? Is Satan solely to blame for the mob riot, the beating with rods, and the imprisonment of Paul and Silas? Why or why not?

Application

1. If honest, would you consider yourself a Christian who has kept your faith in Christ a private matter? Why or why not? Do you fear rejection? Afflictions?
2. Is there anything that needs to change in your life in order to go "more public" with your faith? Do you struggle with making sure you have control of your life's circumstances? [Give opportunities for group members to share]
3. Based on Paul and Sila's worship in prison as well as Richard Wurmbrand's faithfulness under communist imprisonment and torture, what relationship does suffering and affliction have with the gospel ministry? [I

4. Pray for one another and for that one person you are intentionally and prayerfully reaching for Christ.

Missions Focus

1. Pray for the Wades in Central Asia and the Kelly's in the Middle East as they continue to faithfully serve the Lord
2. This coming April, Henry Hernandez will be going with Pastor Dwayne from Open Door Baptist Church and Bill Curtis from Cornerstone Church to Cuba to continue training church planters in Bayamo, Cuba.
3. Pray for our new ministry partnership in Nicaragua together with Westside Church.