



Closed Doors & Open Hearts

Acts 16:1-18

Corbett Robertson - Sierra Community Church
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Read Acts 16:1-18

Notes.

1. GOD OPENS DOORS AND GOD CLOSES DOORS

I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me.

1 Corinthians 2:12

- OPEN DOORS ARE THE ONES YOU WILL BE
FAITHFUL TO GOD IN

Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

2. CLOSED DOORS MEAN ONE OF TWO THINGS

- NO OR NOT YET

¹¹ I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

3. WHAT IS THE RESULT?

¹³ On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. **The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.**

If you are someone who prays for your friends and family members that don't know Jesus, keep praying! Memorize this verse (Acts 16:14). It's not a promise, it's a reminder that God does open people's hearts to receive His gospel, at any age.

4. WHY DOES LUKE CHOOSE THESE STORIES?

- BECAUSE EVERYONE NEEDS JESUS

In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for **you are all one in Christ Jesus.** Galatians 3:26-28

There is no doubt Paul and his companions impacted more people in Philippi than the ones we're told about here, so why these two? These two represent both ends of the human spectrum. Rich, poor, sick, healthy. Everyone needs Jesus.

Community Group Questions:

1. What is your most important takeaway from these stories?
2. How have you responded to God closing doors in your life?
3. What do you think of Psalm 73?
4. Who's heart are you praying for God to open?

