

# **The Cost of Open Doors**

**Acts 16:11-40**

# Acts 16:11-40, Lydia

...Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. 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. 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...

# Acts 16:11-40, Slave Girl

As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour...

# Acts 16:11-40, City People

**But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers. And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, “These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice.” The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods...**

# Acts 16:11-40, Prisoners

And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened...

# Acts 16:11-40, Jailer

When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

# Acts 16:11-40, Family

And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God...

# Acts 16:11-40, Magistrates

But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go." And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace." But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out." ...the magistrates ... were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens. So they came and apologized to them...



# Acts 16:11-40, The Church

And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.

# The Cost of an Open Door

- **“I will build my church...”**
- **The death and resurrection of Christ**
- **The conviction and empowerment of the Spirit**
- **The faithfulness of God’s people:**
  - **In preparation**
  - **In prayer**
  - **In witness**
  - **In perspective**

# **Dietrich Bonhoeffer Quote:**

**“Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has... Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life... Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: ‘ye were bought at a price,’ and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us.”**

# **1. The Cost of Spiritual Preparation**

- God is preparing us for our ministry.**
- “I know the plans I have for you...” (Jer 29:11)**
- God is preparing others to hear and respond.**
- God does not want to make us comfortable. He wants to make us comforters.**
- God “comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God” (2 Cor. 1:3).**

# Missionary Motivation

- **Some go out of a sense of adventure**
- **Some go out of a desire to help others**
- **Some go with a conviction that Jesus Christ is the answer for the world's problems.**
- **Some go with this same conviction, but in a cross-shaped coffin, dead to sin and self and alive to God.**

# Theodore Austin-Sparks Quote

**“So often in the battle, we go to the Lord, and pray ... our thought is that in some way the Lord is going to come in with a mighty exercise of power and put us into a place of victory ... as in an act. We must have this mentality corrected. What the Lord does is to enlarge us to possess. He puts us through some ... exercise of spirituality so we occupy the larger place spontaneously. ‘I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. By little and little I will drive them out before thee, until thou be increased’ (Ex. 23:29, 30).**

## **2. The Cost of Spiritual Ministry**

- To bear spiritual fruit we must plant spiritual seeds: “Humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you” (James 1:21).**
- We must plant them in the way the Lord commands us to: “And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” (James 3:18).**
- We must be faithful: “At the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Gal. 6:9).**

# 3. The Cost of Spiritual Perspective

- We must have spiritual eyes to see what God is doing.
- Lydia, Slave Girl, Crowds, Prisoners, Guard, Magistrates.
- The Gospel is the same but it impacts people differently
- Forgiveness and restoration, but it humbles the proud, lifts up the humiliated, afflicts the comfortable, and comforts the afflicted.



# **Jonathan Edwards, 1 John 4, God is at work when...**

- A person's esteem for the true Jesus is raised.**
- Satan's kingdom is attacked.**
- The people come to love the Scripture more.**
- Men are led away from falsehood into truth.**
- There is an increase in love for God and for man.**