

# UNLIKELY CONVERTS

## A Woman, a Slave, and a Gentile (Acts 16) 08.31.08

- Monday** Before you step foot at work, think about the person at your job who needs Christ. Pray for them. Pray for the opportunity to be Jesus to them. Look for ways to be “Christ in the flesh” to them. And realize that how different the three conversions in Acts 16 were: (1) Lydia believed in the Bible and the biblical God. She just needed someone to connect the dots regarding what the OT had to say about the Messiah and the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus! (2) The slave girl needed help from her oppressive conditions. She needed someone to enter her world and relieve what was crushing her. (3) The Philippian jailer needed to see the practical example of Christ-like character. You may want to share a Bible verse with an unlikely convert who instead needs to see your Christ-like example. Let’s talk about each of these throughout the week.
- Tuesday** Read Luke 24—Jesus and the Emmaus Road! Consider that when Paul met with Lydia, he didn’t need to liberate her from her oppression; she was rich! He needed to teach her. He needed to show her that the Old Testament was really all about Jesus! When we teach out of the OT, if all we talk about are “biblical principles” without getting to Jesus; then, we’ve just taught a “try harder, synagogue sermon!” We need more than just “try harder.” We need to offer up the life-changing Gospel! We need to give them Jesus! Religion = If I obey, God will love me. Jesus = Because God loves me, I can obey!
- Wednesday** Today is Wednesday and if you get the opportunity, go to *Salt & Light* to help distribute food and clothing. When we do, we are letting God use us to relieve the oppressive economic conditions that shackle the under-resourced. This is what Paul did when he liberated the python-girl from her oppression in Acts 16. She was shackled by demons but also by those who exploited her. *If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? (1 John 3:17-18 NIV)* It’s hard to hear the song of the Gospel when one is deafened by blare of poverty. Contact *Teen Parent Outreach* or *Mission 180* @ [www.windsorroad.org](http://www.windsorroad.org).
- Thursday** The Philippian jailor didn’t need to hear a sermon, he needed to see one! Before you share the Word of Christ, you need to be Christ to someone today. *18Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 2:18 NIV)* Don’t talk about your faith today . . . live it!
- Friday** Pastor Tim Keller reminds us that there is no such thing as a stereotypical Christian. There is no one type of person who comes to Christ! “Think now of the membership in Lydia’s house-church. The three converts show that the Gospel embraces different races (Lydia was Asian, the slave-girl was likely Greek, the Jailer was Roman), different economic classes (Lydia was white-collar, the slave-girl was poor, the Jailer was working-class), different cognitive styles (Lydia was rational, the slave-girl was intuitive, the Jailer was concrete-relational). The Gospel leads them to embrace one another--they are ‘brethren’ (v.40). An ancient Hebrew prayer was: “God, I thank you that I am not a woman, a slave, or a Gentile”--but those are the very three groups that God shows his grace to!” Never say, “He/She would never become a Christian!” The power of the Gospel is just that—the power for the salvation of all who believe!