

Pastor Dave Rohde

For Sunday, August 2nd
"Closed Doors, Open Doors"

Acts 16:6-15 – NIV

⁶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. ⁸ So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. ⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹¹ From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. ¹² From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

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 from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. ¹⁵ When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

Takeaway: Discipleship isn't about knowing exactly where God is leading; it's about trusting God when the road ahead isn't clear.

Questions:

1. Would you describe yourself as someone who prefers a detailed plan or someone who's comfortable figuring things out along the way? How has that approach served you well? When has it been a challenge?
2. In his commentary on Acts, Ajith Fernando writes that Paul was "a visionary whose plans were always submitted to God's will." What are some of the signs that we've begun to cling too tightly to our own plans?
3. Reflect on Acts 16:14–15. Lydia responds to God's work in her life by opening her home to Paul and his companions. What can we learn from her hospitality? What is the relationship between faith and hospitality?

Sermon: <https://podcast.wpcwestlake.org/services/mp3/sermon20260802.mp3>

Service Video: <https://youtu.be/OzNnV50MZQ4>

Alternate Service Video: <https://wpcwestlake.livecontrol.tv/776b07e9>