

## THURSDAY, MARCH 8

### CONVERSION OF LYDIA (ACTS 16:11-15)

*“A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul.” (Acts 16:14)*

The disciples had been traveling far and wide, they were bringing with them their witness of Jesus Christ. When they stopped at Philippi they came across a woman by the name of Lydia. Lydia was a religious woman, a “worshiper of God.” However, the implication is that she had not yet experienced a life-changing encounter with the Holy Spirit. As she listened to the apostles speak, “the Lord opened her heart” and she was baptized.

For each believer there is that moment, an encounter with the Divine that leaves us forever transformed. Until we allow the Holy Spirit to change us, we remain as we were: religious, perhaps worshippers, but not disciples.

Over the years, this change has been expressed in a variety of ways. Paul talks about it as a “peace that passes all understanding.” John Wesley said that his heart had been “strangely warmed.” In the hymn *He Touched Me* we sing, “Something happened, and now I know.” When we experience the Holy Spirit in a real way something happens, and this is what transpired in Lydia in Acts 16. Something happened in her that changed her life and her future.

The Holy Spirit is the power of God at work; it is being moved and shaken to our core. When people encounter God, something happens. If you have truly encountered God, you know that this is absolutely true.

This is that moment Lydia went from knowing of God to knowing God. It is the movement from acquaintance to relationship. And it only happens when we encounter God in a real way.

Have you experienced God in a real way? Do you know God or simply know of God? Are you willing for God to open your heart?