



Series: Unsung Heroes

Sermon: Part 3: Rich Towards God: Lydia

Date: Sunday, July 21st, 2024

“Where your treasure is there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

Scripture referenced in sermon message: Acts 16:6-10

If we are going to learn to live out this new life in Christ then it is _____ on God’s power and guidance for this life.

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. 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. (Acts 16:13-14)

Lydia:

1. Was a _____ business woman who was open to hearing about God

Lydia was seeking God and answers for her life and was willing to be changed. Because she was open to hearing about God and put herself in a position to seek Him, that openness led to her transformation.

2. Was known for her leadership, hospitality, and _____

When she [Lydia] 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. (Acts 16:15)

When people are part of the family of God, then the reality is that even strangers are family.

Lydia was presenting her faith in Jesus as evidence that her new commitment to Jesus has made her willing to not only share her house but even her possessions with these missionaries.

After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. (Acts 16:40)

Does your faith in Christ cause you to be generous and hospitable with the things that you have?

If you view everything that you have as God being the owner, then you will be able to be generous with such things because you know that they don’t even actually belong to you.



How we handle money really reveals how mature we are spiritually and who is really god of our life.

A _____: someone who an owner entrusts with the management of their possessions

The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it... (Psalm 24:1)

We are all managers, not owners, because the owner is God and as managers we are to act in the best interest of the owner based on what has been entrusted to us.

3. Leveraged her _____ to grow God's Kingdom

The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:47)

Church has always been about the _____ of God who gather to worship together, who are committed and accountable to each other, who come together in community, who leverage their talents and things for mission, and who use their time to minister to others.

We get to change lives, now and for eternity, when we use our time and our resources to help people find new life in Jesus and as we help them to walk in that life.

Bottom Line: *When we take what we have and invest it towards the local church and the things of God, those investments are eternal.*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

1. *What does your prayer life currently look like?*
2. *If you consider yourself to be a follower of Jesus, how may your faith in Christ influence how generous you are with the stuff and money that you have? How may your faith in Christ influence how generous you are with your time? How may your faith in Christ influence your availability to be used by God for mission?*
3. *How can you be praying for your non-Christian spouse, child, coworker, or neighbor so that they will be receptive to the things of God and will allow you an opportunity to preach to them with your words and life?*

Songs used in service: Death Was Arrested (North Point), Holy Forever (CeCe Winans), The Change In Me (Casting Crowns), Trust In God (Elevation Worship)

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Any prayer requests?

Name _____ **Date:** _____ **Email:** _____

What can we be praying for you about?