

FBC Sebring Wednesday Prayer Meeting – Pastor Matt Crawford

March 23, 2016

Prayer in the Book of Acts (Part 10)

Acts 16:1–12 (ESV)

1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.

2 He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium.

3 Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

4 As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem.

5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

6 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.

7 And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

8 So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

10 And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

11 So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis,

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

Prayer points:

- Pray that we would be willing (as Paul and Timothy were in verse 3) to lay down our freedom for the spread of the gospel and to keep others from stumbling.
- Pray that our church would be strengthened in the faith and increase in numbers daily!
- Pray that we would faithfully follow the Holy Spirit’s leadership and timing, even when He closes certain doors of ministry.
- Pray for God to send laborers into every harvest that still needs the “help” of the gospel.

Acts 16:13-18

13 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.

14 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.

15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

16 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.

17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the Way of salvation."

18 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.

Prayer points:

- Compare Lydia in this passage to Cornelius in Acts 10:1-2, and thank God for using prayer to draw unbelievers to Himself.
- Ask God to help us in praying *with* and *for* unbelievers, so that they will see faith in Christ lived out and thus be drawn to Jesus.
- Ask God to help us to diligently pray (verse 16).
- Pray that the Lord will powerfully work in and among us, removing distractions to the gospel (verse 17) and healing people from sickness and demonic oppression (verse 18).