

The background of the slide features a serene sunset scene. A bright, glowing sun is positioned in the upper right quadrant, casting a warm, orange and yellow light across the sky and reflecting on the calm water below. The sky transitions from a deep purple at the top to a lighter orange near the horizon. In the foreground, the silhouettes of four people are visible on a dark, curved shoreline, looking out towards the water. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

WHEN GOD SLOWS YOU DOWN.....

YOU STILL END UP RIGHT ON TIME

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Acts 16:1-15 | King James Version

How upset do we get when we are delayed?

- late to work?
- flight is pushed back?
- stuck in traffic?



GOD CAN REDIRECT YOU FOR A REASON.....
WITHOUT YOU EVEN REALIZING IT!!!



Acts 16:1

KJV

Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:

Acts 16:2

KJV

Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium.

Acts 16:3

KJV

Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.

The Bible introduces us to Timothy here

- he has been chosen to be Paul's apprentice**
- the text clearly states that his mother was a believer, but his father was a Greek who wasn't**

2 Timothy 1:5

KJV

When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

Proverbs 22:6

KJV

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Timothy chose to follow God despite growing up in an unevenly yoked household

- this is why Paul had him circumcised so that he could preach/teach to the Jews**
- if this didn't happen, the Jews never would have let him preach in their synagogues**

Acts 16:4

KJV

And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.

Acts 16:5

KJV

And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

This shows the solidarity of the message that was established at the church in Jerusalem, and spread throughout

- the established churches were growing daily**
- we are the result of all this hard work thousands of years later**

Colossians 2:6

KJV

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Colossians 2:7

KJV

Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Acts 20:32

KJV

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Acts 16:6

KJV

**Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia
and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of
the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,**

Acts 16:7

KJV

After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

Very unusual statements are made here

- why would God not want Paul and the apostles to spread the word into Asia?**
- why would God “suffered them not”?**



GOD CAN REDIRECT YOU ON PURPOSE....
IN ORDER TO GET THE JOB DONE!!!!



Psalm 48:14

KJV

**For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will
be our guide even unto death.**

John 16:13

KJV

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Psalm 73:24

KJV

**Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and
afterward receive me to glory.**

The Holy Spirit had determined that the time wasn't right for the word to spread into Asia

- we will never know the exact reasons why**
- Asia and Bithynia were off-limits for now**
- they made their way to a city called Troas**

Acts 16:9

KJV

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

**Pay attention to how Paul and the disciples
didn't get discouraged or give up when they
couldn't go to Asia**

**→ they trusted in God that he would give them
direction when the time was right**

Paul is blessed with a vision

- “a man of Macedonia” which represents Europe at this time**
- now we begin to see why the Asia trip was to be delayed, a great need arose somewhere else**



GOD'S PLANS ARE NOT OUR PLANS!!!!



Acts 16:10

KJV

And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

Acts 16:11

KJV

Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis;

Look at the words used here

- “immediately we endeavored....”**
- the writer of Acts, Luke, is with Paul, Timothy and Silas at this point**

**It also clearly shows the obedience to
God's command**

→ how many would have hesitated?

**→ how many would still be angry about not
being able to go into Asia?**



**HAS GOD'S DELAY IN YOUR LIFE
GOTTEN YOU ANGRY???**



Psalm 119:60

KJV

**I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy
commandments.**

James 4:17

KJV

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Isaiah 55:6

KJV

Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

**We see the disciples on the move to their
next destination**

→ this sets the stage for what happens next

Acts 16:12

KJV

And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

Acts 16:13

KJV

And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

They arrive at the capital city of Philippi

- this was a Roman colony, acting as a gateway to all of Europe**
- all the citizens had Roman citizenship and privileges**
- their loyalty and dedication to the empire was unquestioned**



**THIS IS WHERE GOD HAS REDIRECTED
THE DISCIPLES TO SPREAD THE WORD**



**They had arrived in town a couple days before
the Sabbath**

**→ somehow they had heard about a prayer
meeting that occurred outside by the river**

**Jewish law required a minimum of 10 men
to form a synagogue**

- if that wasn't possible, a gathering by
water was acceptable for ceremonial
washing**
- Jewish women were considered 2nd class
citizens without men around**

“....and we sat down, and spake...”

- only women were at the meeting**
- they welcome the assistance of any teacher of the gospel**
- all four men spoke their testimonies about the Lord**

Acts 16:14

KJV

And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

The Bible introduces us to Lydia, who is from Thyatira that was a city in Asia Minor

→ one of the 7 churches discussed in Revelation 2:18-19



**GOD HAD FORBIDDEN
PAUL GOING TO ASIA....**

SO HE BROUGHT AN ASIAN TO PAUL!!!!





**WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME GOD
STOPPED YOU FROM GOING
SOMEWHERE.....**

**ONLY TO BRING THE SOLUTION
RIGHT TO YOU?**



“a seller of purple...” is not just some random detail about Lydia

- purple was the color of royalty, that was in high demand in Roman society**
- Thyatira was known for purple dyes and cloth**
- leads us to believe that Lydia was a very successful businesswoman that had wealth**

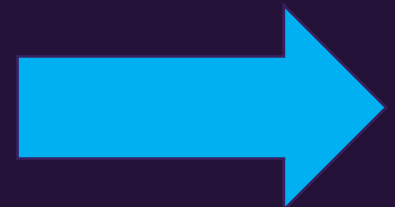
The Bible tells us that Lydia was a worshipper of God “whose heart the Lord opened”

- how many times had she come here?**
- how many years in the making was this meeting?**



**NOTE HOW THE BIBLE SAYS THE
LORD OPENED HER HEART, NOT THE
PREACHERS!**

**ONLY GOD CAN CHANGE YOUR
HEART CONDITION!!!!**



Psalm 51:10

KJV

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Deuteronomy 30:6

KJV

And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

Ezekiel 36:26

KJV

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Acts 16:15

KJV

And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

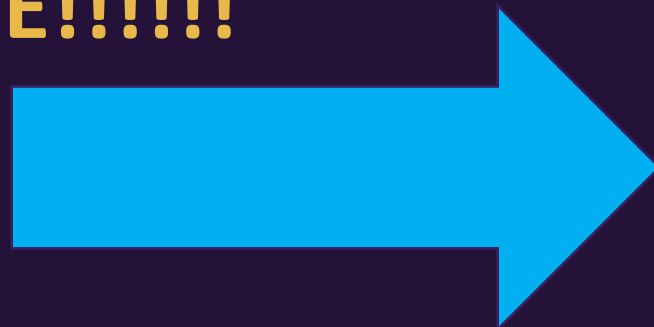
Lydia and her “household”

- how many of them were there? we will never know**
- she wanted the world to know what God had done for her and her family**



**LYDIA, AN ASIAN WOMAN, IS THE 1ST
CONVERT IN EUROPE!!!!**

**NOW THE GOSPEL WOULD TRAVEL TO
ASIA AND EUROPE!!!!!!**



Genesis 35:2

KJV

Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:

Genesis 18:19

KJV

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Lydia invited Paul and the rest into her house

→ she invited them to stay as long as possible

→ think about her testimony

→ how many others did she convert



WHEN GOD SLOWS YOU DOWN.....

YOU STILL END UP RIGHT ON TIME!!!





**ARE YOU STILL UPSET YOU DIDN'T GET TO
YOUR DESTINATION WHEN YOU
WANTED TO?**





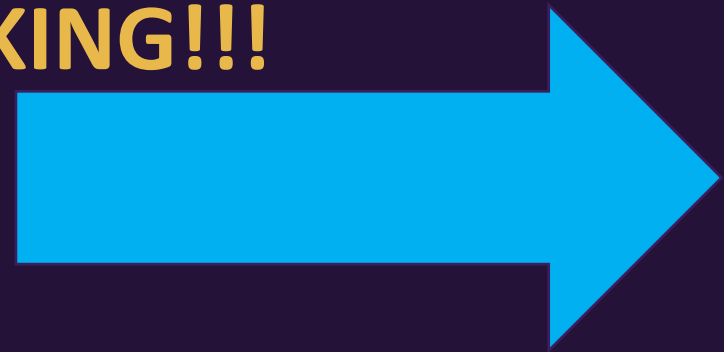
**DID YOU GET
FLUSTERED?
ANGRY?
EMOTIONAL?**





**PAUL AND HIS FELLOW PREACHERS
DIDN'T WHEN GOD STOPPED THEM
FROM GOING TO ASIA!!!**

THEY KEPT WORKING!!!





**GOD SLOWED THEM DOWN
TO GIVE THEM A NEW
MISSION AND CONVERT!!!!!!**





AN ASIAN WOMAN NAMED LYDIA!!!!!!

**SHE BECAME THE FIRST
CONVERT/PREACHER IN EUROPE!!!!**





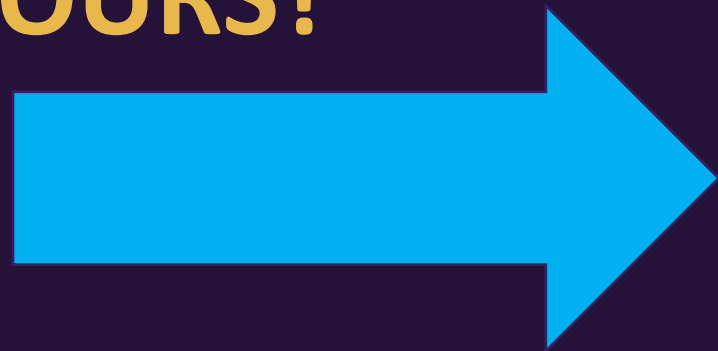
**THE LORD WAS WORKING IN LYDIA'S
LIFE LONG BEFORE THE
MEETING BY THE RIVER!!!!**





**THE LORD OPENED
LYDIA'S HEART.....**

HOW ABOUT YOURS?



LET THE LORD SLOW YOU DOWN....

**SO YOU CAN OPEN
YOUR HEART TO THE WORD!!!!**





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