

## Lydia—A Leader Who Was “Good to Go”

Acts 16:13-15

The portrait of Lydia as painted for us in the book of Acts is the picture of a woman who was known as a “worshiper of God”, and it was her life of worship that enabled her to be a leader who was “good to go”. Even in the few short verses that describe Lydia’s life, we can see some of the qualities that characterize a leader who is first and foremost a worshiper of God.

First, we see that Lydia had to be willing to **Leave**. She had to leave the city of Philippi behind and go out of the gates and down by the river, because it was apparently unlawful to practice her faith within the city (Acts 16:20). She had to leave her business in order to go to the place of prayer, sacrificing time and money to worship God. Like Lydia, we have to be worshipers who are willing to leave comfort and convenience to follow the Master wherever He leads.

We also see from Lydia’s life that a worshiper of God is someone who **Listens**. Lydia was with a group of people listening to Paul; but I believe she recognized the voice of God through Paul because she was accustomed to listening for the voice of God. Remember, she was *known* as a worshiper of God. In our modern society we are constantly surrounded by noise. Henri Nouwen said, “[Through] spiritual discipline we prevent the world from filling our lives to such an extent that there is no place left to listen”. We want to live lives that are obedient to God, but how can we be obedient if we aren’t listening to what He is saying to us? In fact, the very word “obedient” comes from the Latin word “audire” which means “listening”.

A leader who is a worshiper is **Linked** with other like-minded believers. It was obviously a priority for Lydia to be in fellowship with other worshipers of God. It’s possible that in Philippi, the Jewish religion was only being practiced by this handful of women. Many in our world face ridicule and persecution for gathering to worship. Do we sometimes take for granted the blessings we have in being able to gather together for fellowship? Or do we, like Lydia, make it a priority to be linked together with other worshipers of God?

A leader who is a worshiper is someone who **Loves**. She shows her love for God by loving others through service. Immediately after hearing and believing the gospel message, Lydia invited Paul and his companions to stay at her house. And it wasn’t just a social politeness—some versions say she “constrained” them to stay with her, which basically means she wouldn’t take “no” for an answer! Hospitality is sadly lacking in many of our churches today, but it should be one of the ways in which we are leading by example as worshipers of God. Everyone is just “so busy”, but Scripture commands us to show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9). In loving others and developing relationships through service, the potential of having tremendous influence in someone’s life often follows.

Do you want to be known as a leader who is a worshiper of God? Be willing to **leave** self behind...to create time to **listen** for the voice of God...to be **linked** together with other believers in fellowship...and to show **love** for God by loving others through service!