

RUSSELL SANDERS

11-10-2021

WOMAN'S GOD-GIVEN VALUE LESSON 6

LYDIA

We now shift to the New Testament example of Lydia, the sponsor or "Pastor" of the new church in Philippi.

Apostle Paul made his first venture into Europe going to Macedonia where he preached in the city of Philippi (Acts 16:12). God moved upon Lydia to open up her house as a meeting place for believers. We today would call it a house church.

Paul spent quite some time in Philippi as new believers were added to the house church. He spent time teaching the new believers. Even the Philippian jailer (a Roman) was converted through the work of Paul and Silas.

We know Lydia's church was prominent because when Paul and Silas were released from jail they went directly to Lydia's house (Acts 16:40) where the believers were meeting.

Lydia was essentially the Pastor of the house church in Philippi. However, that did not last. When Paul returned to Philippi several years later, the men had taken over the church. There was no more mention of Pastor Lydia. The male bias against women in leadership had taken over. Tomorrow we will go to Paul's writing to discuss that sexist bias.

Nonetheless, God honored Lydia by blessing the church and growing it. He still calls women as well as men into His ministry. Who is man to tell God who He can or cannot call?