THE WOMEN’S MEETING

ACTS 16:11-15

 There are many strong women in the Bible of which Lydia seems to be one. In our text today it seems that there were several women who had a deep desire to pray and to worship God in the best way they knew how. I can remember in times past and still somewhat today, when some men thought it a weakness to have to go to church. Some men think that church is OK if they do not have something better to do. In spite of the men’s thoughts some of the wives have kept the faith and made it a real part of their lives to be in church and to have their children in church. That may have been who was by the riverside worshipping on the particular Sabbath Day when Paul and Silas showed up at their prayer time. There are a few things it would help to take notice of.

 Although it was a women’s group, it was not exclusive to women. The writer of Acts said that “We sat down and spake unto the women.” Paul and Silas were allowed to join with this group of female worshippers. This was not a group of women who were attempting to liberate themselves from their men or the religious leaders to do their own thing. They were, however, women who desperately wanted to worship God and desired to know all they could about him. These women were not the first to have such desire. Lazarus sister Mary had the desire to just sit at the feet of Jesus and hear him speak. Jesus said that she had chosen the good part. Mary Magdalene washed his feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. She was also outside his empty tomb and the Lord revealed himself to her in his resurrected form. When we consider the strong women of the Bible such as Ruth, Elizabeth, Lois, Eunice and many others, it is evident to me that women today do not have to prove themselves. They just need to be faithful to God.

 The open heart of Lydia indicates the way the women accepted the gospel that was shared by Paul and Silas. They heard the words of Paul that was preached to them. They could have said “we are going to have nothing to do with these men they were not invited anyway.” Instead they acknowledged they were seeking God and by hearing these blessed words they found Him. God had opened their hearts. They also attended unto the words spoken by Paul. In other words they obeyed the gospel. This was proven by Lydia’s baptism and her desire to accommodate the apostles. Worship sure is different when we approach it with an open heart.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram