

Fact Sheet for **“Hidden in Plain Sight”**  
**Acts 16:6-15**

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12/08/2013 (8<sup>o</sup> outside)

<sup>ESV 6</sup> ¶ **And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.** <sup>7</sup> **And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.** <sup>8</sup> **So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.**

They had come to central Asia Minor

Asia was a Roman province in western Asia Minor with Ephesus as its capital  
My'-si-a was region in NW Asia Minor  
Bi-thy'-ni-a was a region in north central Asia Minor, South of the Black Sea  
Troas was a seaport in NW Asia Minor

God's guidance was at first negative, but He planned for people in both Ephesus and Bithynia to hear the gospel at a later time (18:19-21, 24-19:41; 1 Pet. 1:1)

“they went down to Troas” indicates the nearby hills.

<sup>9</sup> **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.”**

Macedonia – A province roughly corresponding to northern Greece today

“a man of Macedonia was standing there” (Compare Cornelius in Acts 10:30)

<sup>10</sup> **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.**

<sup>11</sup> ¶ **So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis,** <sup>12a</sup> **and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony.**

From Neapolis they traveled 10 miles on the Via Eg-na-ti'-a to Philippi.

Philippi – “a leading city of the district of Macedonia and many Roman army veterans settled here.

- Strategic commercial location on both land and sea routes
- Gold mines
- Status as a Roman colony
- Famous school of medicine

*This is the first of the “we” references in Acts that indicate Luke was traveling with Paul, Silas, and Timothy.*

The wind at this crossing must have been favorable, for it took only two days to sail the 156 miles to Neapolis, though the trip in the other direction after the third missionary journey took five days (20:5).

<sup>12b</sup> **We remained in this city some days.** <sup>13</sup> **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.**

In Jewish law wherever there were ten male heads of households who could be in regular attendance a synagogue was to be formed. Failing this, a place of prayer under the open sky and near a river or the sea was to be arranged.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>14</sup> **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.**

Thy-a-tir'-a

Formerly in the kingdom of Lydia that continued to be considered as in Lydia.

“Lydia”

Or perhaps “the Lydian lady”

“a seller of purple goods”

Homer in the *Iliad* refers to the art of purple dyeing practiced by the women of this area.<sup>2</sup>

The purple dye came from a shellfish, the murex, or from the root of a plant.

“a worshiper of God” [See Cornelius (10:2), at Thessalonica (17:4), in Athens (17:17)]

“The Lord opened her heart” (Compare Luke 24:45)

<sup>15</sup> **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.**

“she was baptized, and her household” [Compare Cornelius (10:24, 44), Philippian jailer (16:31), Crispus (18:8), Aristobulus (Rom. 16:10), Narcissus (Rom. 16:11), Stephanas (1 Cor. 1:16)]

That she was a woman of considerable means is evidenced by the size of her house. She could house four men as well as her household.

Go back through the passage and notice the underlined portions, then compare...

**NAU Proverbs 16:9** The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

**ESV 1 Corinthians 3:6** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

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<sup>1</sup> Expositor's Bible Commentary, vol. 9, p. 460.

<sup>2</sup> Homer (*Iliad* 1v. 141f.).