1. **Intro:**
   1.1. I don’t think a Christian ever gets tired of hearing how someone was won to Christ! – Such great stories on how much grace God has shown; what God has pulled them out of; or how God pursued them. (examples)
   1.2. One of the outstanding characteristics of Christianity is its variety of methods in dealing w/mankind.
      1.2.1. It takes them as they are, & works with them in their individual temperaments & circumstances.
      1.2.2. The object is the same (salvation for the soul); but the means vary (taking different ways to same goal).
   1.3. Here we have 3 different kinds of sinners, or 3 hearts that are won to Christ:
      1.3.1. A business woman; a slave girl; & a man given jail duty.
      1.3.1.1. A soft heart; a blind heart; & a hard heart.
   1.4. Recap Macedonian call. [Destination, Europe – Duty, to preach the gospel!]
      1.4.1. We picked up Luke(10)[“we” passages] Both Philippi narratives 16:10-17; 20:5-15

2. **3 HEARTS, 1 SAVIOR! (11-40)**
   2.1. **A SOFT HEART!** (11-15)
   2.2. (11) Sailing – On that ship were seeds of life for Europe.
      2.2.1. Later to become seeds that would sail to America.
   2.3. (12) Philippi - named after Philip of Macedon II (father of Alexander the Great)
   2.4. Colony – (not golf course on Jackson) It was a little Rome. Cities that followed Roman law & customs.
   2.5. (13) Riverside – obviously was not 10 Jewish men, needed for a synagogue.
   2.6. Sat down & spoke - What an insignificant way to open up a continent!
      2.6.1. Free, simple, informal, w/nothing set or elaborate about the service, just prayer & an opportunity of testimony for Christ!
      2.7.1. 1st convert made in Europe.
      2.7.2. Thyatira – center of the purple dye business. Since purple goods were expensive, Lydia was likely a wealthy person. And traveled far more than most women of her day.

---
1 Griffith Thomas; Outline studies in Acts; pg.322
2.8. The Lord opened her heart – Who?
2.8.1. The heart = the center of our moral life. Including: Intellect (thinking); Emotions (feeling); Will (determining).
2.8.2. It’s the essence of our whole being, our personality. It contains “the issues of life”.
2.8.2.1. Prov.4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.
2.8.3. From our heart proceeds evil thoughts; with it man believes unto righteousness; God offers man a new heart!
2.9. Why does a heart close off to God? – because the sin in our nature (root) & the sin in our practice (fruit).
2.10. The Lord opened her heart – not Paul.
2.10.1. It’s the sun that makes the photograph not the artist!
2.10.1.1. Explain w/o light. Long night exposure still picking up moon light.
2.10.2. It’s God’s Son that makes the convert not the artist!
2.10.3. The conversion & sanctification of every soul is God’s & God’s alone!
2.11. Example: Closed rose bud. Try to open myself. Or, water & prep soil, & allow the sun to do its work.
2.12. (15) In at least 2/3rds of the world, all important decisions are made by groups.
2.12.1. Because only insignificant decisions are left to individuals, when missionaries come w/an individualistic gospel, it frequently seems as though it must be an unimportant issue to those they are trying to win. (Peter Wagner; Acts of the H.S.)
2.13. She 1st opened her heart, then her home!
2.14. Her salvation so quiet. Nothing startling. Just growing conviction that something deeper was missing.
2.15. A heart so Soft it just needed more light!
2.16. A BLIND HEART! (16-24)
2.17. What a contrast to the 1st woman, who was used to making a profit; this young woman was used for profit.
2.18. (16) Spirit of divination/a spirit of Python - [πθον] ἡ ἐκ τοῦ Python In Greek mythology it was the name of the Pythian serpent or dragon, and was said to have guarded the oracle at Delphi (Greek city), and been slain by Apollo.
2.18.1. Oracle? – A religious institution focused upon an individual who had a satanically empowered gift of prophecy & who was sought out by many who wished to determine the will of the spirits.
2.18.1.1. The oracle at Delphi was a priestess known as the Pythia because she was empowered by the Python spirit.
2.18.1.2. She would only prophecy on the 7th day of the month.
2.18.1.3. She would take a ceremonial bath, sacrifice a goat to Apollo, enter an underground chamber beneath the Temple sit on Apollo’s tripod.²

2.18.2. According to mythology, Python’s power was passed to Apollo, & through him to others.
2.18.3. Paul encountered this same spirit in this slave girl.

2.19. (17) Fallen angels are probably the finest imitators of holiness.

2.20. (19) Their hope of profit was gone – No different today in someone getting saved & getting out of a gang; drug trafficking; (they know too much)

2.21. 2 women were the 1st European converts…Where was the man of Macedonia?

2.21.1. And after vs. 24…was this what the great call to Macedonia was all about? [For a ladies prayer mtg? For a demon possessed slave girl? Lord, which one do you want to be the pastor & the assist pastor in this new church plant?]

2.22. A heart so Blind it needed someone to remove the blindness!

2.23. **A HARD HEART!** (25-34)

2.24. (25) In spite of persecution & pain, these Christian prisoners prayed & praised.
2.24.1. Tertullian wrote, “Legs did not feel, because souls were in heaven”.  
2.24.2. Lord teach me to praise instead of complain!

2.25. What a contrast in the gospels where king Herod frets while sitting on his throne; while here, prisoners rejoice because their minds are at ease!
2.25.1. Spurgeon, “A crust of bread from one heart brings a song, from another a thousand acres of ripening grain can produce no thanksgiving.”

2.26. When you hurt, ask God to give you songs in the night!³
2.26.1. Ps.42:8 The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, & in the night His song shall be with me - A prayer to the God of my life.
2.26.2. Job 35:10 says God gives us songs in the night.
2.26.3. Ps.149:5 Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds.

2.27. (26) In 1 Kings 19:11,12 Elijah was told, Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD. And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake,

² Peter Wagner; Acts of the H.S.; pg.401,402
³ Warren Wiersbe; With the Word; pg.718
but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

2.27.1. I guarantee he was in this earthquake!
2.27.2. It shook the foundations; opened door; & loosened the chains.
2.27.2.1. There was some heaven-quake involved in this earthquake, lest how do you explain no one hurt.

2.28. All I know is I'd be out of there, remembering what God did for Peter!
2.28.1. Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty I'm free at last!
2.28.2. Wait! Oh, it wasn’t to set them free, but to set another free!

2.29. (28) Had Paul not called out we’d have a man dieing & slipping off to hell!

2.30. (29) Trembling – The Jailer knew something was very wrong. His life was not right
2.30.1. His post was in danger, but more importantly …his soul!
2.30.2. Maybe remembered unnecessary cruel treatment of Paul & Silas?
2.30.2.1. (24) Feet in stocks – (Greek/ xoo-lon) wood, stocks. A Roman Instrument of torture w/more than two holes for the legs so that they could be forced widely apart unto apposition which soon became intolerably painful. [LKGNT; pg.304]

2.31. (30) The greatest question for all mankind…What must I do to be saved?
2.32. Saved – always in contrast with “lost”.
2.32.1. Similar contrast to “Lost” (sheep,coin,son) with “found”.
2.32.2. So salvation is the opposite of being lost, it’s being found; it’s the opposite of being in danger, it’s being safe.

2.33. What about the 2nd most important question, What must I do to be lost?
2.33.1. No elaborate answer, for it consist of just one word…nothing!
2.33.1. See Jn.3:36,18.

2.34. (32) At sometime his household enters the scene because they heard & received also. (nothing magical about & your household!)

2.35. (33) I love that he not only felt bad for the beatings, but did something about it.
2.35.1. Wash their wounds; then wash your sins away!

2.36. The 1st recorded episode of an out-and-out pagan, becoming a believer in Jesus Christ! (i.e. no prior exposure to Judaism)

2.37. A heart so Hard it needed a great earthquake to crack it open!

2.38. CIVIL RIGHTS! (35-40)
2.39. Paul did not use his roman citizenship here to protect himself from pain; but here he uses it to protect the new church.
2.40. **End:**

2.41. So we had: a religious **business woman** w/an open/soft heart; a **slave girl** with the Philippian-Python-possessed-heart; rugged **roman soldier prison guard** w/a hard heart.

2.41.1. **God has a thousand keys** to open a **thousand different doors** in order to deliver His own. *George MacDonald*

2.42. Whether your heart is **soft**; **blind**; or **hard**; the Lord wants to open it this morning!

2.42.1. **Ps.34:18** The **LORD** is close to the **brokenhearted** and saves those who are **crushed**(contrite) in spirit.

2.42.2. A heart **must** be **penetrated** by God!

2.42.3. A heart may be as **thin** as an egg shell, like the Philippian business woman **Lydia**;

2.42.4. A heart may have a **black veil** over it, like the Philippian **slave girl**;

2.42.5. A heart may be **thick** & needs an great earthquake to crack it, like the **Philippian prison guard**;

2.42.6. But a heart **must** be **penetrated** by God!

2.43. What help does mankind truly need? – **Knowledge of God; Pardon of sins; Power for life; & Hope for the future!**

2.44. So if salvation is the opposite of being **lost**, it’s being **found**; and it’s the opposite of being **in danger**, it’s being **safe**. – Do you want to be **found**….**safe**?

2.44.1. **Believe** in the Lord Jesus Christ & you **will be saved!!!**

---

4 Griffith Thomas; Outline studies in Acts; pg.318