

The Women Servant Ministry of Regional

Two examples

1. Phoebe - Romans 16:1-2

Meaning of name: Pure & radiant as the moon. Greek for moon goddess.

If not the first, one of the first to be called "deaconess", servant of the church.

2. Lydia - Acts 16:12-15, 40, Phil. 1:1-10

Meaning of name: probably not Greek by Phoenician, meaning "bending".

A prominent women of Thyatira.

1) A business women - Thyatira was known for it's dyes. The water was well adapted for dyeing. Incredible scarlet cloth permanently dyed and purple dye made Thyatira famous. Lydia was a well-known seller of this product (Acts 16:14) and she was a successful business women in a prosperous city. Her prosperity is evident in that she had a spacious house with servants to care for her.

Yet, she also servant of the Lord, helping Paul any way possible.

2) A servant of the Lord - Although she had servants, she also, proved to be a servant of the Lord by helping Paul and others who were sharing the good news of Christ. Her conversion came simply by hearing the Word of the Lord (Ps.119:18, 130; Luke 24:45).

3) As a Christian Woman - she made a public confession of her faith, and was so excited that she shared with her entire household, and they all were baptized as disciples of Christ. Lydia had the honor of being Paul's first European convert. Becoming a Christian did not hinder her business prosperity.

4) Open door policy - Lydia kept her doors open for Paul and Silas as well as many other men of God. She is an example for Regional Baptist Church and we do well to follow that example.

* * * * *

Lydia sold dyes and she served the Lord. Her business help fund the cause of Christ. Whether you have money or not, Lydia is truly a wonderful role model for us to follow. In that she sacrificed, she increased. In that she increased, she sacrificed more. Lydia sowed seeds of sacrifice and reaped a harvest of prosperity.

* * * * *

Ladies, I want you as the Spirit directs, to be Lydians, willing to sacrifice your life for the cause of Christ. I also want those seeds of sacrifice that you will be sowing to turn into a wonderful harvest of prosperity because of you faithfulness to Him.

Yes, I want to be a Lydian called to the Servant Ministry of Regional Baptist Church.

Signature: _____

(MINISTER)

Now, as an ordained Minister of the Gospel, I, along with our ordained deacons open this glorious service to the dedication of the following women to the Lydian ministry of Regional Baptist Church; a servant ministry, appointed by God through the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Ladies will you come to the front and face me when your name is called:

R E A D T H E L Y D I A N L I S T
* * * * *

(DEACON #1) In that we are a council of deacons, now actively serving in this God appointed office...

(MINISTER) And that I am a Minister of the Gospel duly ordained by this body of believers...

(DEACON #2) We now represent our fellowship, Regional Baptist Church in examining these ladies by asking them to respond in unison to our prepared statements...

(DEACON #3) After which, they will then be presented to you for approval as Lydians, willing to serve to our Lord's glory and the benefit of our fellowship.

(MINISTER) Let us begin.

Lydia was a lady who did much Godly service for Paul and other believers in the early church. She was a successful business woman, a seller of dyes and world renown cloth. Lydia was wealthy, had a large house and many servants. Yet in spite of this, she had a servant's heart because of her relationship to Christ. Her home and support was always open for ministry.

Her name means "bending" which could be a wonderful attribute of the Lydian ministry. Being able to adapt and be all things to all people as Paul the apostle so strove to be.

Joe - Please repeat after me:

...in good conscience with all humility;
...I will serve as a Lydian,
...not as one who controls others,
...but as one who is controlled by the Holy Spirit.

(DEACON #4)

...I realise that I have been set apart
...to serve this regional body of believers;
...And that my life will be a Christian example
...for others to follow.

(DEACON #5)

...When I do fail someone
...by the sin of omission or commission,
...I will be quick to confess and repent,
...asking forgiveness when necessary;
...And leaving no place for the work of the adversary.

(DEACON #6)

...I also realise,
...I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
...Therefore by faith,
...I gladly receive His strength,
...for without Him I can do nothing;
...But with Him all things are possible.

(DEACON #7)

...I believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God.
...It is useful for teaching the truth,
...it helps me realise when I do wrong,
...it is useful for correcting,
...and training in what is right,
...so that the woman of God may be complete,
...thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(DEACON #8)

This concludes the statements of the council. After examining these ladies and considering their willingness to respond to our dialogue; But more than that, after seeing that their lives truly reflect a strong faith and Christian love as a result of their relationship with God, we hereby present them to Regional Baptist Church for your approval as the first Lydians of this body of believers.

(MINISTER)

If you approve, let them know by a hardy round of applause to the glory of God!

Ladies, we hereby declare to the world that Regional Baptist Church acknowledges you as Lady Lydians, appointed Servants of the Lord, willing, able, and ready to function as the Spirit of God leads this church for His glory and His good pleasure.

(page 3/3

(DEACON #9)

Ladies, will you please kneel as we the council and other members that feel led, lay hands on you in an act of faith as we pray for you and speak words of encouragement as the Spirit leads.

(MINISTER- closing prayer & chorus)

Let us all join hands and sing together, WE ARE ONE IN THE BOND OF LOVE.

(The End)