

Read Acts 16: 11 – 15

Question 1. Verses 11 – 13

Paul, on his second missionary journey, is heading for Philippi and seeking the Jewish residents of the city.

- 1a.** What can we draw from these verses about how Paul approached his mission?
- 1b.** Is there anything we can learn from Paul's approach that can help us as we wonder how to approach those we are praying for in need of knowing Jesus Christ?

Question 2. What Paul said to those women gathered at the riverside was, no doubt, gripping, challenging and true.

- 2a.** What was it, more than Paul's words, that brought Lydia to faith?
- 2b.** What does this tell us about our own role in evangelism?
- 2c.** Does the word 'evangelize' raise any negative thoughts or concerns for you? Can you express what these are?
- 2d.** If you feel ill prepared or ill equipped to talk about what your faith means for you, how else might you bring people to hear or witness the Gospel?

Read Matthew 13: 44 – 46

Question 3. The parables found in Matthew 13 are considered to be the central point of his gospel, and the teaching to be drawn from this short reading from the chapter is truly challenging. The kingdom of heaven (or as in Mark and Luke - kingdom of God) is of such great value that one should be willing to give up all one has in order to gain it.

- 3a.** Can you think of another occasion during Jesus' ministry when he gave similar teaching? (see Matt 19: 16ff & Luke 12: 13ff)
- 3b.** Do you think this teaching is as relevant today (in 21st century Western Europe) as it was when Jesus taught it? How do you interpret this teaching for your life today?
- 3c.** Give some thought to the following: can you think of anything, anything at all, you could give someone that has more benefit today and eternally than the saving message in the gospel of Jesus Christ?