



## A Prayer Meeting by the River

*Acts 16:6-15*

In his second missionary journey, Paul had wanted to go to Asia (probably to Ephesus), but God sent him and his missionary team in a different direction. In a night vision, a man [*anér*, a male individual] of Macedonia implored them to “come and help us” (*Acts 16:9*). They obeyed the vision and arrived in Philippi of Macedonia, a city named after Philip, the father of Alexander the Great.

Ironically, the “man” they came to help turned out to be a group of women: “And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither” (*Acts 16:13*). On this Sabbath (Saturday), the day when the Jews would rest from their labors and worship, Paul and his companions went to a place where a group of women customarily met to pray to God. There they sat with and spoke to the women who had gathered to pray to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

What a touching scene it must have been! A group of devout women met by this scenic riverbank to call upon the name of the Lord. How we each need to develop prayer habits so as to meet with the Lord both alone and at times with other God-fearing souls. How fitting it is to find a quiet gathering place in the midst of God’s creation, far from the distractions and interruptions of the world!

Consider how the Lord Jesus would often do the same: “He went up into a mountain apart [by Himself] to pray” (*Matt. 14:23; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16*). These women had been **prepared by prayer** and were ready to hear the Gospel message! From this humble prayer gathering the great church at Philippi could trace its origin.

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)



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