**Acts 16:12-15 To the Ends of the Earth**

**Background of Acts 16:12-15**

1. Luke and Acts as an integral unit:
	1. The Holy Spirit in Jesus (Luke 3:22, 4:1,14,18, 3:16)
	2. The Holy Spirit given to all believers (Acts 2; 1:4-8)
2. Outline of Acts
	1. Jerusalem
	2. Judea and Samaria
	3. To the ends of the earth
3. Acts 16:12-15
	1. Turned to Europe, remote from Jerusalem and its culture
	2. Luke has joined the group (“we” in Acts 16:10).
4. **The Lord opens hearts.**
	1. Lydia’s world
	2. The Lord opened her heart

Application: encouragement

* 1. Corporate results of her open heart—a church partnering with Paul (Phil 4:15-18)
		1. Application: Though Mercy Hill Church is small, the Holy Spirit is in us!
		2. Obedience: The Holy Spirit empowers for witness.
1. **Adapt methods to the circumstances.**
	1. Paul’s circumstances
	2. Paul’s adaptations
	3. Application: How we need to adapt to cultural shifts
2. **Retain the essential message of the Gospel.**
	1. Gospel outline (Appendix 1, **Out of the Saltshaker**, by Rebecca Pippert)
		1. God
		2. Man
		3. Jesus
		4. Response
	2. Essential Gospel strategy
		1. Bridge to prior knowledge when possible
		2. Search for God opening hearts