**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