

# DISCIPLE'S QUEST

*If you continue in My word, then you are  
truly disciples of Mine.*

John 8:31

## EXCEL STILL MORE

**August 20, 2023**

**Acts 17:1-10**

### **Main Idea**

After a time of blessed ministry followed by brutal persecution at Philippi, the missionary team of Paul, Silas and Timothy arrived in the city of Thessalonica. A large port city with a sizeable Jewish community, the missionaries preached Christ in the local synagogue over the course of three Sabbaths. The Lord blessed their ministry with many converts, including some Jews and a large number of God-fearing Greeks. Jealousy among the Jewish leaders, however, once again produced fierce persecution and the missionaries were forced to leave the fledgling church sooner than they wanted to. The gospel however, had taken hold. Lives were transformed and in spite of the challenges that confronted it, the Thessalonian church thrived and remains an example for churches even today.

### **Outline**

1. The City
  
2. The Missionaries
  - Called
  
  - Courageous
  
3. The founding of the church
  - The starting place – the synagogue
  
  - The missionaries' message: the gospel
  
  - The results

**Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:**

#1 The missionaries made the synagogue at Thessalonica the focal point of their gospel preaching ministry in spite of the probability of eventually experiencing persecution for doing so. Why did they make this decision?

What made the God-fearing Greeks especially open to receive the message?

#2 How would you describe Paul's method of gospel preaching?

#3 According to v. 6, what inspired the jealousy of the Jewish leaders?

#4 Does the accusation leveled against the missionaries and the new believers sound familiar to you? (Luke 23:1; John 19:12)

#5 What lessons do we learn about persecution from this occasion and the previous episode in Philippi in C. 16?