

Putting Feet to Your Faith

Acts 17:1-10

Paul has begun his second missionary journey with a new team, traveling to new territories, but facing the same trials and obstacles anyone will endure, when they attempt to remove spiritual strongholds through sharing the chain breaking message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So Paul and the team after being falsely accused and severely beaten for crimes that they didn't commit are released from prison, and instead of leaving immediately they stop by their new disciple Lydia's house to encourage all the saints in their faith. How wonderful of a scene is this, for the ones who endured the persecution, the offense, and the wrongs, them who should have been receiving the comfort are encouraging others.

V1-10

- **V1** as the chapter begins we see Paul and the team traveling through Amphipolis and Apollonia in order to get to his destination "Thessalonica" all told this was a 100 mile journey no small feat considering they are still bruised and battered from being beaten, chained and jailed in Philippi. But for Paul it was worth it, because at that time "Thessalonica" was the capital of Macedonia, and a strategic place located on major trade routes and known to be a center for commerce and business. This goes back to **Acts 16:7-10**, where the Holy Spirit forbade them from going into Asia Minor but instead led them to Europe and Macedonia to plant churches.
- By stopping here Paul knows the gospel if received would have the opportunity to radiate in many directions, as Thessalonica not only was known for its trade routes, but also for having an excellent harbor that ships from all over would come to. This meant as travelers and merchants would come to buy and sell their wares, they also would hear the truth, and whether they received it or not they are going to talk about what they saw and heard while traveling on their trade routes. Now amazingly instead of conducting business for themselves, they unknowingly will also be doing business for the Lord, in helping to spread the truth throughout the world.
- **V2-3** Paul first goes to where the Jews and God fearing Gentiles would be and for three weeks "**reasoned**" it's where we get our English word dialogue from. Paul doesn't just tell the people what to do, he also explained to them why they should do it, and he does this through the scriptures. Parents you know this well, at first with your kids your telling them what to do, but it comes a time when they need to understand why their doing it as "**because I said so**" doesn't cut it after a while, they are going to question you as to why your saying it and we should be able to give them a reason for what we are asking them to do right! **1Pet 3:15**- ready to defend
- They needed the cross explained to them as they didn't understand why the Savior would have to die at the hands of man if he came to save man, but what they didn't know was that he is "**alive**" and well ready to intercede on their behalf if they would repent and receive Him as Lord.

- **V4-6** in this chapter alone we'll see the effect of Paul's ministry and the gospel in **3** cities, and how the people in those cities responded to the Word of God. Also as we look into these responses although they happened many centuries ago you'll see not much has changed between the ancient world and the modern world when it comes to accepting God's Word.
- Paul explained to them three important facts concerning the gospel that none understood even though it's outlined in scripture > **1st** Messiah must need to suffer, **2nd** Messiah would rise again, **3rd** Messiah is Jesus, **Math 13:53-57**- tell us how they all viewed Jesus, as the carpenter's son, coming from humble means to try and elevate Himself over them, so they were offended at the notion that He could be their Messiah, for in their eyes He wasn't good enough wow!
- Here is the **1st** response as **some believed**, and with **belief** comes a **hunger for truth** > **1Pet 2:2-3**, so they attach themselves to Paul-Silas, men like "Aristarchus and Secundus who later traveled with Paul **Acts 20:4**. Thessalonica because of the commerce and trade routes was a wealthy city, that had influential men and women in it, and scripture says some of these influential ladies believed and joined Paul and Silas in helping the gospel spread within the city.
- **2nd** response **some didn't believe**, and with unbelief comes envy and jealousy toward those who do, and as it happened in Psidian Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, on Paul's first missionary Journey it happens here on his second journey also, as a mob is incited amongst the Jewish unbelievers, and they employ the worst of society to help them in accusing Paul and causing chaos and confusion. Anytime there's civic uproar and violence it's not the Lord > **1Cor 14:33**, and in looking for Paul and Silas once they don't find them they grab Jason who's house they were meeting in, drag him and others before the authorities and lay some serious charges on them.
- May what is said about them be said of all of us "**they who turned the world upside down**" have come here too, so the Jews no doubt had heard from others about Paul and the gospel of grace. **V7-9** they accuse them of disturbing the peace and promoting treason by teaching there's another King besides Caesar, the same charges they leveled at Jesus in **Lk 23:2**. May we receive the same treatment that our Lord > **Math 10:24-25, Jn 15:20**- if we expect to be treated differently then you've got the wrong perspective. There's a cost to follow Jesus and Jason pays it putting a bond out on Paul-Silas, and if they don't leave the city Jason loses his house.
- **1Thess 2:18** later Paul wrote how Satan used this to keep Paul from returning to Thessalonica, and yet God still did an amazing work here. Although Paul was only there for three weeks, **1Thess 1:5-8** says in this short period of ministry the gospel spread and souls were won and tremendous growth happened, because growth is not always a matter of time but application. **V10** they send Paul-Silas away under the cover of night to a neighboring city called "**Berea**".