

Acts 17 The Great Adventure, Acts: Monologue verses Dialogue (Church of Thessalonica Part 2)

Message to Conversation Guide

Key Text

Acts 17:1-9

17 When they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. 2 As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days **he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,** 3 explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he said. 4 Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women.

5 But the Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. 6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city officials, shouting: "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, 7 and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." 8 When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. 9 Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go. NIV

Discussion Questions

1. Paul spent three weeks reasoning with the people in the synagogue at Thessalonica. Discuss how important it is that we have patience with people that are trying to come to terms with faith in Jesus. Most people don't come to faith in immediately and is a process not an instantaneous event.

Acts 17:2

2 As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and **on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,**

2. How is a persons journey to faith in Jesus like moving around a baseball diamond? In baseball a the runner moves around the bases - when they are on first base they are quite a way from home plate - on second base they are closer etc. How do the verses below convey the process people go through to find faith in Jesus.

1 Cor 3:5-9

5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe — as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. NIV

3. Discuss the meaning of the word reason as listed and illustrated below.

Acts 17:2

2 As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, NIV

“He Reasoned”

dialogomai = to think different things with one's self, mingle thought with thought to ponder, revolve in mind to converse, with one, argue, discuss.
discourse

Dialogue = conversation between two or more persons.

James 1:19

19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, NIV

4. Why is listening with our eyes as important as listening with our ears?

1 Peter 3:12

12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”NIV (see Ps 34:15)

5. Acts says that some people responded to Paul’s message - the inference is that some didn’t. It is important to know that even Paul didn’t succeed in winning everybody. Review the possible scenarios of why some rejected Paul’s appeal for them to receive Jesus.

Acts 7:4

4 Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women.

6. When did Paul leave town and what was the significance of his leaving during that time? (see **Acts 17:10**)