

The Great Adventure - Acts 17:1-9 Quitting Quitting!

Message to Conversation Guide

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. Where did Paul come from when he arrived in Thessalonica? What kind of things did he experience in the city before he got to Thessalonica?

1 Thessalonians 2:1-2

1 You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure. 2 We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition. NIV

2. The greek word "suffered" in 1 Thessalonians 2:1 is *propascho* and means to suffer hardship. What kind of hardships in life are most likely to cause you to want to give up?
3. The greek word "insulted" in 1 Thessalonians 2:1 is *hubrizo* and means "to exercise violence, abuse, use despitefully, reproach, entreat shamefully." How important is it to overcome rejection from people in order to succeed in life? Discuss how rejection is a universal experience for humans.

4. What is the significance of Paul's arrival in Thessalonica based on what he just gone through? What does his perseverance and continuity say about his belief in his mission? What does his steadfastness say about his character?
5. Discuss the categories below of situations we are tempted to give up on when things become rough. Why is it important to be steadfast when quitting looks tempting?
 - Quitting school or College because things are hard.
 - Abandoning your exercise program and diet.
 - Giving up coming to church or small group because it is inconvenient.
 - Giving up on a relationship that is requiring some significant work and effort.
6. Nehemiah stayed with his task when he was being tempted to quit. What was the end result of Nehemiah's persistence.

Nehemiah 6:2-4

2 Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono." But they were scheming to harm me; 3 so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" 4 Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer. NIV

Nehemiah 6:15 So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days.

7. Discuss the principle: **The greater the dream and mission the more significant the opposition.**
8. Paul had a systematic approach to planting churches. Discuss what his method was and how he continued to work that program until he saw results. How important is it that we don't abandon good ideas and plans when we don't see immediate fruit.

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,

9. Paul was patient with reaching out to the folks at Thessalonika. He didn't see immediate results but he was persistent. Why is persistence essential for success in any endeavor?

Acts 17:2

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