

Series: The Acts of the Apostles: To the End I

Text: Acts 17:1-15

HI: Gospel mission triggers opposition.

Title: *Disturbing the Peace*

Hook: “ruckus”

Date: 5.5.24

Purpose: To steel the resolve of gospel believers in preparation for the mission of Christ that always stirs up opposition from the world.

FCF: Like the believers in this text, we live in a world that is constantly triggered by the truth of Christ. God’s grace is seen in the solidarity of the saints and the miraculous salvation of sinners.

COR: Peace is disturbed all around us, but things don’t seem to get any better. This story peels back the curtain, revealing that the disturbers of the peace are not those trying to quiet revolution, but those seeking to wage it against the rightful rule of Christ.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: v. 3: Christ proclaimed

Apologetic: The witness of Jesus has revolutionized the world. The news about him changed the face of the planet, and not just a little bit, but completely. This text shows the forces aligned against him from the beginning—the religious, the political, all this world’s power. Yet through a band of suffering saints over the centuries, the risen Jesus has changed the world. Why? Because HE is the truth.

Text Tone: Instructive

Preaching Voice: Priestly

Form: Deductive

Call to Worship: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Benediction: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Outline:

I. The gospel of Jesus invites and incites. (1-9)

A. The gospel of Christ saves his people. (1-4, 11-12)

B. The reign of Jesus threatens his enemies. (5-9, 13)

II. The word of God advances through resistance. (10-15)

A. There is beautiful unity in Christ’s community. (5-10, 14-15)

B. There is final authority in God’s Word. (2, 11)

Main Idea:

Subject: What happens as the gospel advances in Thessalonica and Berea?

Complement: Many are saved and opposition arises.

Exegetical Idea: As the gospel advances in Thessalonica and Berea many are saved and opposition arises.

Theological Idea: The advancement of Jesus' mission incites opposition.

Homiletical Idea: Gospel mission triggers opposition.

Introduction:

READ Acts 17:1-9

17 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ²And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." ⁴And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. ⁵But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, ⁷and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." ⁸And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. ⁹And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

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READ Acts 17:10-15

¹⁰The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness,

examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. ¹² Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men. ¹³ But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds. ¹⁴ Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there. ¹⁵ Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

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I. The gospel of Jesus invites and incites. (1-9)

A. The gospel of Christ saves his people. (1-4, 11-12)

B. The reign of Jesus threatens his enemies. (5-9, 13)

‘But, brothers, when we were torn away from you ... we made every effort to see you ... we wanted to come to you ... but Satan stopped us.’ 1 Thess 2:17–18

RE-READ Acts 17:10-15

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II. The word of God advances through resistance. (10-15)

A. There is beautiful unity in Christ's community. (5-10, 14-15)

1Cor. 12:26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

B. There is final authority in God's Word. (2, 11)

Eagerness: willingness/goodwill

Examining: careful detailed study, questioning

Gospel mission triggers opposition.

1 Thess 1:4-10

⁴For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.