

Acts 17:1-21 – 30 August 2020

“A Lifestyle of Sharing the Gospel”

Introduction

*Paul has chosen Silas to return to the places Paul's already been to on his 1st trip, to strengthen them

*But then on this 2nd Missionary Trip Paul / Silas / Timothy are led of the Lord to continue into Macedonia of Europe (what is Greece today)

*In chapter 17 they'll visit Thessalonica, Berea and then Athens...and we'll see a pattern emerge regarding who they evangelize for Christ

*This world is headed in the wrong direction, and we need to turn it upside down for Christ

Today we see 5 principles for effectively living a lifestyle of sharing the Gospel

Since we have 3 cities these principles will repeat & we won't necessarily get them in order.

Their time in Thessalonica (Chap 17:1-10a)

Read Vs 1-3

1. **This is our 2nd principle – Reason from the Bible everywhere about the resurrection of Christ**
2. Paul reasons from the scriptures that Christ must suffer & rise again before being King
 - a. The Jews have always expected a king
 - b. He wants them to understand that this Messiah that they've been waiting for is supposed to suffer first THEN come as King.
 - c. *“He was wounded for our transgressions.”*
3. Notice he's reasoning with them from what they say they already believe, that is the O.T.
 - a. Later Paul starts w/ Athenians speaking of the Unknown god, b/c they had a statue to him.
 - b. Some say they don't believe in a god at all.
 - i. If there's a painting, there's a painter.
 - ii. Press thru and go forward anyway b/c knowledge of God is written on the heart.

Read Vs 4-5

1. **This is our 3rd principle – You’re willing to be rejected as you cause division**
2. Read Matt 10:34 – “*Think not that I’ve come*”
3. In winning souls for the Lord, you will naturally make some people hate you.
 - a. Are you willing?
 - b. Is Jesus worth it to you?
4. A mob forms at Jason the Christian’s house

Read Vs 6

1. You don’t need a mob or violence to turn the world upside down, you need the powerful message of salvation thru the resurrected Christ!!
2. Read II Cor 10:3-4
 - a. Our weapons are putting on a spiritual mind in order to think right & help others to think right!!

Read Vs 7-10a

1. Although motivated by their own envy (vs 5), they brought up Jesus as a rival king.
 - a. The enemies of Christ aren't often dumb.
 - b. They know how to bring up your faith in a way to get you in the most trouble.
2. They took bond money from Jason assuring "he" wouldn't cause any future riots.
3. **This is our 4th principle – Leave the rioting mobs alone**
 - a. Notice Paul & the team head out of town.
 - b. Once the mob mentality starts, there's nothing you can do at that time but leave.
 - c. Paul isn't abandoning Jason & the other believers, he'll write to them twice & return
 - i. Act 20:4 says – Aristarchus & Secundus of Thessalonica come w/ Paul when he returns
 - d. Christians reason w/ people making it a reasonable faith; you can't reason with a mob.

Their time in Berea (Chap 17:10b-15)

Read Vs 10b-11

- 1. Again, this raises our 2nd principle – Reason from the Bible everywhere about the resurrection of Christ**
2. Paul was glad that they were double-checking what he had to say.
 - a. Their authority was the Word of God and not the word of man.
 - b. One of the greatest crimes possible is when the word of man tries to masquerade as the Word of God.
 - i. “God told me last night you need to provide me with a Cadillac.”
3. Paul wasn’t offended w/ the double-checking.
 - a. Our goal is to get folks into the Word which brings them to Christ.
4. “Searched Scriptures Daily” - Yes synagogue on Saturday, but they’re believers every day.

Read Vs 12

1. **This is our 5th principle – Continue to guide those who want more**
 - a. Also in Thessalonica (vs 4) - They consorted together & grew in the Word
 - b. They would stay as long as they could, like in Antioch (Acts 11:26) they stayed whole year

Read Vs 13-15

2. **Again, this raises our 4th principle – You leave the rioting mobs alone**
 - a. Although Silas & Timothy stayed behind for a time, they sent lightning rod Paul away.
 - b. Interesting that it's the unbelievers from the last city, Thessalonica, that are stirring the pot.
 - i. The enemy is on an active attack. How much more should the Christian be stirred to go on an active attack
 1. That of proactively offering the Gospel to everyone we can.

Their time in Athens (Chap 17:16-21)

Read Vs 16

1. **This is our 1st principle – Be stirred in your spirit w/ compassion for the lost**
 - a. Think of their lost condition, just like when you were lost
 - b. Think of the terrible fate that awaits them w/o the life-changing Gospel.
2. Also Paul was stirred b/c of their idolatry
 - a. Part is a righteous anger b/c they're taking God's glory and ascribing it to earthly things
 - b. Part is a sadness that they think the eternal, powerful God can be seen thru earthly images.

Read Vs 17

1. **Again, this raises our 2nd principle – Reason from the Bible everywhere about the resurrection of Christ**
2. Notice Paul goes to Jews & Gentiles.
3. **GO WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE**

Read Vs 18

1. **Again, this is our 3rd principle – You're willing to be rejected as you cause division**
2. What are you willing to raise on conversation that will cause a division?
 - a. For some...it's everything – that's just needless offence.
 - b. For some...it's nothing – that's loving the praise of men more than the praise of God
 - c. For Christians...it's the resurrection of Christ unto the salvation of damned souls!
3. Are you able to start a conversation when you know there's a good chance you're be rejected?

Read Vs 19-21

1. **Again, this is our 5th principle – Continue to guide those who want more**
2. Often this means new believers, but as here, we often need to continue to help skeptics.
3. Many will yet turn to Christ for salvation!

Conclusion

So next week, we'll see Paul's life-changing message that he presents to the Athenians.

But today we've 5 principles for effectively living a lifestyle of sharing the Gospel

Which of these do you need to challenge yourself with today?

1. **Be stirred in spirit w/ compassion for the lost**
 - a. What if no one told you the good news?
2. **Reason from the Bible everywhere about the resurrection of Christ**
 - a. Don't win someone to your church, win them to Christ!
3. **Be willing to be rejected as you cause division**
 - a. Is Christ worth causing division in ur eyes?
4. **Leave the rioting mobs alone**
 - a. You can't reason w/ the unreasonable
5. **Continue to guide those who want more**
 - a. Fully devote your time/energy to others