

Power to Witness in Word and Deed — Part 2

The Book of Acts

Acts 17:1–15

Note: The book of 1 Thessalonians is a letter that Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica soon after the account you will read in today's lesson. You may wish to read the complete letter along with this study for further insight.

Read Acts 17:1–9.

1. As is customary, Paul goes to the Jewish synagogue when he arrives in Thessalonica.
 - a. What does he do there? (vv. 2b–3;  * 1 Cor. 15:3–4)
 - b. How is this similar to the teaching of the risen Jesus? (Lk. 24:15, 25–27, 44–46)
2. Paul feels it is necessary to prove to the Jews from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ. What did they expect of the coming Messiah? (Dan. 7:13–14; Jn. 6:14–15;  Acts 1:6)
3. Paul knows that proclaiming Christ is not just a matter of trying to present a solid argument.
 - a. How does God's work in him confirm the message he presents? (1 Thess. 2:1–12)
 - b. How does Paul describe God's role in persuading the Thessalonians that his message is true? (1 Thess. 1:4–5, 2:13)
4. Whom does God call through Paul's message, in Thessalonica and later in Berea? (vv. 4, 12;  Rev. 7:9–10)
5. What could explain the unbelief of the Jews mentioned in verse 5? (7:51–53; Jn. 5:37–40)

What does their jealousy drive them to do?

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

6. Why are “Jason and some other brothers” (v. 6) brought into the situation? (vv. 5–7)

What are the consequences they suffer for this connection? (vv. 5–9)

7. Who are the real trouble-makers here? (v. 5a)
8. The mob charges them with proclaiming Jesus the Messiah as another king. This is considered high treason in the Roman world and so the “city officials were thrown into turmoil” (v. 8).
- a. What element of truth is contained in the charge made against Paul and the others? (Rev. 1:4–6; 11:15)
 - b. What do Paul’s accusers fail to understand when they make this charge? (1 Pet. 2:13–17;  Jn. 18:36)
9. As a result of the riot, Paul and Silas are sent away. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17—3:6. Since they are unable to return, how do you see their concern for this new church expressed?

Read Acts 17:10–15.

10. Paul and Silas are sent to the city of Berea.
- a. What is notable about the Bereans? (v. 11)
 - b. Why is this praiseworthy in comparison to the Thessalonians?
11. Jews and Gentiles, prominent and unknown, men and women are all becoming believers as the truth of Jesus spreads.
- a. How do those opposed to the message continue to plague Paul? (v. 13)
 - b. What do the believers do to protect God's messenger? (vv. 14–15)
12. In this lesson you have read of the high value placed on Scripture’s truthfulness. Think about who and what informs your view of what is true. Consider 2 Timothy 3:14–16. What changes can you make to your daily routine that will allow the Scriptures to have a greater influence as your source of truth?