

Wednesday night Bible study

April 21, 2021

Journey through the book of Acts

Acts 17:1-9

After Paul and Silas had been miraculously released from prison, they met at Lydia's house with the brothers in the faith. After encouraging them in the Lord, they came to Thessalonica where they established a Church.

Vss. 1-2 What was Paul's custom when he entered a city? What was the logic in doing so? Can we surmise why he didn't stop in Amphipolis and Apollonia?

You may recall from our discussion of chapter 13 that Paul had the authority/privilege to speak in the synagogue as Jewish scholar. Paul didn't just preach in the synagogue. Note the phrase "reasoned with," which - in the Greek - means "dialogue." What was the basis of his reasoning? How can the Holy Spirit use a truth like this in our lives to motivate us to action?

Vs. 3-4 What was his main message? The text also uses the words "explaining and proving." What do these phrases tell us about Paul's approach?

What indicators do we have of 'success?' How reliable are numbers when considering the success or failure of a mission/ministry? Cite Scriptures, if possible.

Vss. 5-9 Jealousy raises its ugly head in this section. We have talked about this many times before, but if we were to hear of an outreach event at the church down the road where 47 people surrendered their lives to the Lordship of Christ, what should be our response? (You probably don't need a hint, but if you do, consider Luke 15:7, 10 and 32)

Verse 7 suggests a most serious crime against Rome. No one dared pledge allegiance to anyone but Caesar. Paul, Silas and Timothy were facing serious charges, and now Jason (unknown to us 'til now) is complicit in their crime. Have you ever had to choose between obeying God and obeying Caesar? (Exodus 1:15-17; Acts 5:26-29) Are you free to tell us about it?

Having Jason post a bond was a way of ensuring that Paul and company leave Thessalonica. If they stayed and caused any more problem, real or imagined, Jason would have forfeited the bond.

For a deeper understanding of this passage, you will want to read through 1 Thessalonians, paying particular attention to its greeting and to 1:6-10; 2:14-18