



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of December 21, 2025

Acts 17:1-9

1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. **2** And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, **3** explaining 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." **4** And 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. **5** But 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. **6** And 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, **7** and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." **8** And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. **9** And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

1. Paul endured much hardship, sacrifice, pain and suffering to take the gospel to the world. How can you explain Paul's incredible perseverance to continue, in spite of his battered broken body and the constant persecution he faced? In what ways are we challenged today to persevere in our faith and commitment to Jesus?
2. Do you think Paul felt supernaturally powerful and didn't really feel the pain of the beatings and stonings? What do you think comes first, God's provision of power, or man's faith to step out and use that power? Explain your answer.
3. The Jews were looking forward to a conquering king-like Messiah. They could not (would not) recognize that the Scriptures proclaim a suffering Messiah who would come to earth to die. They missed the power of God being proclaimed in the Gospel. In what ways do Christians today miss out on the power of God when we focus only on the blessings and good things in the gospel?
4. We see in Acts a disproportionate number of gentiles, women, and marginalized people coming to Christ, as opposed to the Jews who were closest to the teachings of the Scriptures. Is it any different today? Think about the young people brought up in churches today. Are more of them walking with Jesus or walking according to the ways of the world? Either way, explain why you think this may be the case.
5. In the book of Acts we see a pattern that when people become Christians, unbelievers begin to persecute them. Why do you think this is the case?
6. What do you think it meant when the Jews said that the Christians had turned the world upside down, and what enabled the early Christians to accomplish such a feat?
7. When you understand that living the Christian life and spreading the gospel are empowered by God rather than ourselves, how should that impact the way we live and proclaim Jesus? How should this impact the way we pray?