

1 Thessalonians

Week 1: Beginnings (Acts 17)

Often when we think about sharing our faith and our understanding of God and His word, we pray that the reaction or response to our sharing of the gospel is received well. Yet, we know that there is a possibility that some will not accept what we have to say or come to the same understanding.

Paul gives us a great example. Even while the potential negative response to the gospel is a reality, it is also NOT a deterrent. In Acts 17, while there were many negative responses to Paul that even led to a “riot” as a result of his message, there were also “many” who DID receive the message. While Paul had to leave before he wanted, or before he may have seen the “fruit” of God’s efforts through him, we can see after the fact the great results.

Questions for the Week:

1. What verse or thought did you want to revisit from the message time this week?
2. What was the last trip you made? Extended or day trip, you decide, then share!
3. If you have traveled, what do you usually do when you arrive in a new city/location?
4. When was the last time you were able to share the gospel while on a “trip”? What was the result?
5. Describe a time you felt like everything you tried to communicate kept getting twisted against you?
6. Are there environments where you feel that your efforts weren’t /haven’t been successful in sharing the gospel?
7. Have there been situations where you learned that your efforts did make a difference where you thought they had not initially?
8. How can we imitate the qualities found in 1 Timothy 4:11-16
9. Read Acts 17:5-9
10. Have you experienced any “fear-based” rhetoric to advance or protect an agenda? (If things got out of hand, it wouldn't be long until the Emperor dispatched his legions to restore order, and no one wanted that. So Jason had to post the bond even though he did not instigate the riot.)
11. Have you been “tempted” to do the same?

Memory Verse:

Acts 17:2–4 (ESV)

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.