

Acts 17:1-9

1. Observation and exposition
2. The take-away for us?

Observation and exposition

1. Read the passage [SLIDES]
2. Observation and exposition
 - a. The time and setting [SLIDES]
 - i. Distances
 1. Stott - approximately 100 miles from Philippi to Thessalonica
 2. Peterson - 30 miles from Philippi to Amphipolis, 27 miles from Amphipolis to Apollonia, and 35 miles from Apollonia to Thessalonica
 - ii. Thessalonica
 1. The capital and principal city of the province of Macedonia
 2. Founded in 315 B.C.
 3. A harbor town and on the *Via Egnatia*
 - iii. Questions
 1. How long were Paul and team in Thessalonica?
 - a. At least a few weeks, probably a few months
 2. Where and when were 1 and 2 Thessalonians written?
 - a. Possibly Athens, more likely Corinth
 - b. Shortly after leaving Thessalonica
 - b. Paul preaches (reasons) in the synagogue (1-3)
 - i. His message - content
 1. The Christ (Messiah) had to suffer (die) and rise from the dead
 2. Jesus - his life, ministry, death, resurrection
 3. Jesus is the Christ
 - ii. His message - method
 1. "he reasoned with them from the Scriptures"
 2. Other examples in Acts
 - a. 17:11-13
 - b. 18:5, 9-11

c. 19:8-10

3. Compare what Jesus did in **Luke 24:25-27, 44-47**
4. "Knowing the Bible is not the same thing as knowing Jesus."
 - a. Knowing Jesus is absolutely essential - **John 17:3**
 - b. But, can we know Jesus without or apart from knowing the Bible? Discuss.

c. The reaction to Paul's message **(4-5)**

i. Some believed **(4)**

1. Some of the Jews
2. A great many devout Greeks (Gentiles)
3. Not a few of the leading women (of the city?)
4. And "joined Paul and Silas"
 - a. What does this mean?

ii. Some Jews did not believe, and were jealous **(5)**

1. What did they do?
 - a. Hired some wicked men
 - b. Formed a mob
 - c. Set the city in an uproar (started rumors?)
 - d. Attacked the house of Jason - why?
 - i. Paul and team may have been staying there
 - ii. Probably the new church was meeting in Jason's house

iii. The accusations by the Jews **(6-7)**

1. Was there any truth to their accusations?
2. *Destroyer of the gods* book cover [SLIDE]
3. Christians and government
 - a. **Romans 13:1-2**
 - b. **Philippians 4:20**
4. Stott quote [SLIDE]

iv. The reaction of the people and the authorities **(8-9)**

1. They were disturbed, but did not resort to violence, as happened in Philippi and other cities.
2. They required a financial security bond from Jason and the others.

- a. Probably why Paul had to leave immediately.
- d. Read **1 Thessalonians 1:1-3:13** for Paul's perspective on what happened in Thessalonica, answers to some questions raised earlier, and encouragement.
 - i. Imagine you are the newly formed Thessalonian church?

The take-away for us

Resources

1. *The Acts of the Apostles*, F. F. Bruce, 1990
2. *The Book of the Acts*, F. F. Bruce, 1988
3. *The Acts of the Apostles*, David G. Peterson
4. *The Message of Acts*, John Stott
5. *The Acts of the Apostles*, Ben Witherington III
6. *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*, F. F. Bruce