

ACTS 17:1-15

When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ² As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said. ⁴ Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

⁵ But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason’s house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶ But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: “These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, ⁷ and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.”

⁸ When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil.

⁹ Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.

¹⁰ As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. ¹² As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

¹³ But when the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God at Berea, some of them went there too, agitating the crowds and stirring them up. ¹⁴ The believers immediately sent Paul to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea. ¹⁵ Those who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

When have you experienced travel disruptions or unplanned events on a trip? How did things work out?

How do Paul and his companions begin ministry work in the city of Thessalonica? How does this compare to Paul's previous travel experiences?

What is the main message Paul presents as he reasons with the Jews in the synagogue? What was the response from his audience? Do you see a pattern emerging based on his previous journeys?

How was the reception of Paul and Silas different in Berea? What was key in how the Bereans inspected the message taught by these Christians?

Why do you suppose Paul was such a lightning rod for the opposing Jews (Philippians 3:4-11)? Imagine having to live with a constant threat of violence against you because of your beliefs. How would you respond?

How can we develop a Berean-like attitude in personal Bible study and our daily walk with Christ?

DAILY READINGS

1. JEREMIAH 20:8-18
2. PROVERBS 1:1-19
3. JOHN 7:14-31
4. 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10
5. 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-16
6. 1 THESSALONIANS 2:17-3:13
7. ACTS 17:1-15