



Turning the World Right Side Up

Introduction: Paul continues spreading the gospel. His method is to visit the synagogue and use the scriptures to prove that Jesus is the Messiah. The message is received by some and rejected by others. He travels to Thessalonica and is accused of turning the world upside down. The Jews in Thessalonica are so outraged by Paul's message that they run him out of their town and run him out of Berea.

Text: Acts 17:1-15

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: Have you ever experienced or observed mob violence? What was the issue and why were people so upset?
2. Read Romans 9:1-3. What does this show about the love that Paul had for his Jewish brothers? Do you think this was one of his motivations to begin his ministry in the synagogue of every city? How is your love for those who are lost?
3. Why did Paul use the OT scriptures to show that Jesus was the Messiah and that it was necessary for him to suffer, die, and rise from the dead?
4. Read 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:16; Hebrews 4:12. What does this say about the Bible? Why is the Word of God different from any other book? According to the verses you read, what does the Word of God do for the believer? Why must you spend quality time reading God's word? Why is simply listening to praise and worship music not enough to give you the spiritual nourishment you need?
5. Acts 17:7-8—Why are the Jews so upset with Paul? Why do people get so upset by what you “say?”
6. The early church recognized only one king—Jesus. They refused to bow their knee to anyone else and declared him to be their Messiah. How can you live out the Lordship of Christ in your life and how can you share that message?
7. They were accused of turning the world upside down. In reality, Paul was trying to turn the world right side up. Why does the “world's” perspective look different than God's perspective? What evidence do you see in our current culture that it views things opposite of God's Word? (Read Judges 21:25, Is. 5:20, Jeremiah. 6:13-15, Romans 1:16-32)
8. There were many people who did respond favorably to Paul's message in both Thessalonica and Berea while some did not. It is our responsibility to share the message. It is the Lord who saves—we do not. How does this fact help you when you share the gospel?
9. How easy is it for you to talk about your faith with other people? How often do you invite someone to church? Do the people you work with/go to school with know that you are a Christian? How often do you pray for others?

Think About it:

The world has been upside down ever since Genesis 3 with the fall of man. Paul says that the god of this world blinds the minds of unbelievers so they will not see the glory of Christ. The world does not promote or reflect the values of God. Politicians, the Hollywood elite, sports superstars, etc. (for the most part) do not have the mind of God as their world view. Jesus said we are to be salt and light. We must make the most of every opportunity and share the good news of Jesus and flip this world right side up.

Moving Forward:

Read Acts 1-17. Pray that the Lord burdens your heart for those around you who do not confess Jesus as King. Invite at least one person to come to church with you. Attempt to engage in a gospel conversation this week. Pay attention to our culture's views through media and social media and note how far away they are from the heart of God.