

PPT Acts 17 – Study of the Book of Acts Series

“Responding to God’s Word”

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Senior Pastor, Dr. Janet Cook

Key Verse: Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Resisting the Word, Acts 17: 1-9

Acts 17:1-4 (NKJV) Preaching Christ at Thessalonica

1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.

2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths **reasoned** with them from the Scriptures, 3 **explaining** and **demonstrating** [proving from the scriptures] that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.”

- The sermons in the book of Acts emphasize the Resurrection. “Christianity is in its very essence a resurrection religion. The concept of resurrection lies at its heart. If you remove it, Christianity is destroyed.”
Dr. John Stott.

4 And some of them [Jews] were persuaded; and a great multitude of the **devout Greeks**, and **not a few of the leading women**, joined Paul and Silas.

Acts 17:5-9 (NKJV) Assault on Jason’s House

5 But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, [(KJV) lewd (low, ignorant or vulgar) fellows of the baser sort] and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.” 7 Jason has harbored them, and these are all

acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, **saying there is another king**—Jesus
8 And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things.

- Luke is pointing out – that all the persecution is caused by the Jewish leadership there.
- The word translated “another” means “another of a different kind,” that is, a king unlike Caesar.

9 So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

- Jason put up the money and guarantee that Paul and Silas would leave the city and not return.

Receiving the Word – Berea – Acts 17:10-15

Acts 17:10-12 (NKJV) Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. 10 When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that **they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.**

- Two instructions for us be ready to receive the word and search the scriptures to see if it is true.

Acts 17:12 (NIV)

12 As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

- Paul was overjoyed by the way the Bereans received the word.

Acts 17:13-15 (NKJV) But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds. 14 Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there. 15 So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed.

Ridiculing the Word – Athens – Acts 17:16-34

Acts 17:16-21 (NKJV) The Philosophers at Athens

16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. 17 Therefore he reasoned in the

synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.

- Paul used what opportunities were available to share the good news of the gospel.

18 Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him.

- The Epicureans said, “enjoy life” and the Stoics said, “endure life” but it remained for Paul to explain how they could enter into life through faith in God's risen son.

18 And some said, “What does this babblers want to say?”

Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,” because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.

- The word babblers literally refers to someone who collects various ideas and teaches them as his own.
- The others were confused but interested, they thought Paul believed as they themselves did in many gods, because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.
- Life in Athens consisted in hearing and telling new things and Paul had something new.

19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? 20 For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore, we want to know what these things mean.” 21 For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

Acts 17:22-23 (NKJV) Addressing the Areopagus

22 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious;

- Paul opened his address with a compliment.

23 for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:

The message Paul shared has 4 basic truths in it.

1. The greatness of God: He is Creator

Acts 17:24-28 (NKJV) God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

- The Epicureans who were atheists, said that all was matter and matter always was.
- The Stoics said that everything was God, the spirit of the universe and God did not create anything.

2. The goodness of God: He is Provider

25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

- In two brief statements, Paul completely wiped out the entire religious system of Greece.

3. The government of God: He is Ruler

26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

29 Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.

4. The grace of God: He is Savior

Acts 17:30-31 (NKJV) 30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.

Acts 17:32-34 (NKJV) And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." 33 So Paul departed from among them. 34 However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.