

Recap of 3/20/22 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 17:1-9

1. David Livingstone, explorer and missionary to Africa was asked where he was prepared to go. He replied, "I am prepared to go anywhere, so long as it is forward." Turning back never occurred to Paul either. Paul and Silas, after being brutally beaten at the hands of the authorities in Philippi. They led the Philippian jailer and his household to faith in Jesus Christ, and after strengthening the fledgling church there, travelled approximately 100 miles southwest to Thessalonica, and then 50 miles further to Berea.

2. The gospel message was so important to Paul and his companions that despite difficulties, persecution, and personal disgrace they were undaunted in their task of evangelization. Their commitment is an encouragement to Twenty-first century believers to understand just how vital the gospel message is.

3. Thessalonica was the capital of the province of Macedonia. It was an important and influential city. From here other smaller cities would be reached, such as Apollonia and Amphipolis mentioned in verse one. After three weeks teaching in the synagogue Paul turned to the gentiles and a church was established, which Paul later called a "model" church (1 Thessalonians 1:4-10)

4. [Paul's] stay in [Thessalonica] intimates how the gospel should be preached, his experience in Berea, how it should be received." (Erdman)

5. Paul method of teaching the word was to reason (question and answer, "argued with them" J.B Phillips), to explain (to show that it was reasonable to accept the truths of Scripture), and to prove (to set the prophecies of OT Scripture alongside the historic acts that fulfilled them) from the Scripture that the Messiah had to suffer and be resurrected (e.g. Isaiah 53; Psalm 22), and that Jesus was this Messiah.

6. "When Christianity really goes into action it must cause a revolution both in the life of the individual and in the life of society" (Barclay).

-Jesus changes people from the inside out.

-Society's values are challenged.

-Christians are a force for righteousness. Conversely our rejection of immoral principles and practices cause us to collide with society.

- "Christ's teachings do not please people who don't want their selfish lifestyles disturbed."

-People are religiously attached to their religion and don't want to be told they are on the wrong path.

7. One emphasis of Paul's teaching was the return of Christ and His reign in the Millennial Kingdom. In light of Christ's future reign, we must ask: "Does He reign in our lives right now. Does He reign over our choices and priorities; over our thought life; over our attitudes and actions; over our money, and over our time?"