

Three Cities, one Gospel
Part 1: Thessalonica
Acts 17: 1-9

Keywords and Phrases*

Decrees of Caesar (v. 7)
Jesus (vv. 3, 7)
Persuaded (v. 4)
Scriptures (v. 2)
Synagogue (v. 1)
The Christ (v. 3)
Wicked men (v. 5)

*Keywords may vary depending on Bible translation

Critical Thinking Questions

1. Why was it essential for Paul to use the Scriptures to explain to a Jewish audience the need for Jesus to endure suffering (see Isaiah 53:3-12; Luke 24:26-32; Acts 3:18; 8: 32-33; 17:3)?
2. What is the irony of the mob claiming that the Christians have "turned the world upside down" (see Acts 17:6)?
3. What is the significance of the statement, "They are acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus" (See 2 Samuel 7:12-17; 1 Chronicles 28:5; 2 Chronicles 13:8; Isaiah 9:7; Jeremiah 23:6; Luke 1:32; 23:2; Acts 17:7)?
4. Examine the differences in communication and response between Paul when he spread the message of Christ and the Jews when they incited a mob. What distinct contrasts do you observe (Acts 17:2-3; 17:5-6)?

Analyzing the Scripture

Paul

- reasoned from the Scriptures with the Jews at the synagogue in Thessalonica (vv. 1-3).

Some Jews

- were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas (v. 4).

A great number of devout Greeks

- were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas (v. 4).

A number of the leading women

- were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas (v. 4).

The unpersuaded Jews

- were jealous (v. 5).
- formed a mob (v. 5).
- attacked the house of Jason (v. 5-6).
- falsely accused the Christians (vv. 6-7).

"And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women."

(Acts 17:4 ESV)

Reflection Question

Why is it crucial for our faith to understand the significance of Jesus suffering, dying, and then rising again as king?