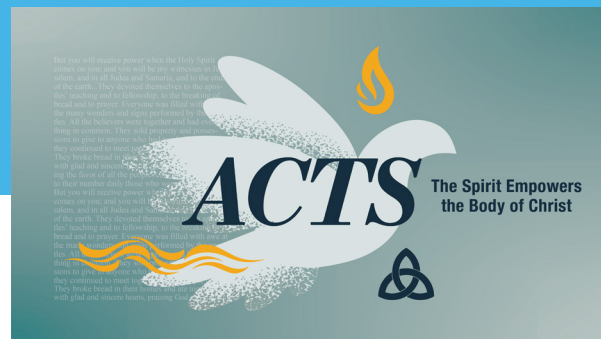


Discussion Questions

February 16, 2025

Acts 17:1-15

Turning the World Right-Side Up



1. Share an example of when a strongly held understanding of scripture was challenged and you came to a different way of understanding it.

2. Read Acts 17:1-5

What stands out to you about Paul's approach to sharing the gospel in Thessalonica (verses 2-3)?

How does "using scripture to reason with people" apply to how we share our faith today?

3. Read Isaiah 53.

In what ways does this passage point to Jesus as Messiah?

4. Read Acts 17:10-13

Why are the Bereans considered more noble?

How does this compare to the Thessalonians?

5. The sermon highlighted the danger of making certainty an idol. Have you ever struggled with this?

How can we balance confidence in our beliefs with openness to growth?

How can we go to the scriptures to test teachings if we are not Bible scholars?

6. The sermon emphasized turning the world "right-side up." What does this mean in your daily life?

Where do you sense God nudging you to partner with Him in building His kingdom (or mirroring the reality of heaven here on Earth) as discussed in the sermon?

Acts 17:1-9 (CSB)

After they passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. As usual, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and rise from the dead: "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah." Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, including a large number of God-fearing Greeks, as well as a number of the leading women.

But the Jews became jealous, and they brought together some wicked men from the marketplace, formed a mob, and started a riot in the city. Attacking Jason's house, they searched for them to bring them out to the public assembly. When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here too, and Jason has welcomed them. They are all acting contrary to Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king - Jesus." The crowd and city officials who heard these things were upset. After taking a security bond from Jason and the others, they released them.

**Acts 17:2-5 (NLT)**

As was Paul's custom, he went to the synagogue service, and for three Sabbaths in a row he used the Scriptures to reason with the people. He explained the prophecies and proved that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead. He said, "This Jesus I'm telling you about is the Messiah." Some of the Jews who listened were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with many God-fearing Greek men and quite a few prominent women.

Luke 24:25-27 (NLT)

You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Isaiah 53 (NLT)

He was despised and rejected - a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.

Acts 17:4 (NLT)

Some of the Jews who listened were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with many God-fearing Greek men and quite a few prominent women.

Acts 17:5–9 (CSB)

But the Jews became jealous, and they brought together some wicked men from the marketplace, formed a mob, and started a riot in the city. Attacking Jason's house, they searched for them to bring them out to the public assembly. When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here too, and Jason has welcomed them. They are all acting contrary to Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king - Jesus." The crowd and city officials who heard these things were upset. After taking a security bond from Jason and the others, they released them.

Dallas Willard

I think that when I die, it might be some time until I know it.

1 Thessalonians 1:4–7 (NLT)

We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people. For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true. And you know of our concern for you from the way we lived when we were with you. So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord. As a result, you have become an example to all the believers in Greece - throughout both Macedonia and Achaia.

Acts 17:10–11 (NIV)

As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. 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.

Psalms 119:34–36 (NLT)

Give me understanding and I will obey your instructions; I will put them into practice with all my heart. Make me walk along the path of your commands, for that is where my happiness is found. Give me an eagerness for your laws rather than a love for money!

Psalms 119:130 (NLT)

The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand.

Psalms 119:144 (NLT)

Your laws are always right; help me to understand them so I may live.

1 Peter 2:2 (CSB)

Like newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word,, so that by it you may grow up into your salvation,

Acts 17:12 (NIV)

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

Acts 17:13-15

But when some Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God in Berea, they went there and stirred up trouble. The believers acted at once, sending Paul on to the coast, while Silas and Timothy remained behind. Those escorting Paul went with him all the way to Athens; then they returned to Berea with instructions for Silas and Timothy to hurry and join him.

3 main Takeaways

The power of Prophecy of the Old Testament that points to Jesus as Messiah

Be a Noble Berean

We are called to turn the world Right-Side Up