

September 23/24, 2006

Study Questions
The Unstoppable Church
Check it Out
Acts 17:1-15
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Opening Discussion

1. Do you think people are more apt to determine what to believe and how to live by what feels or sounds good or by studying the best sources and thinking it through?
2. Why do you think so many people do not look seriously at the Bible when deciding what to believe and how to live life?
3. Why is following the crowd so appealing to people?

Can you think of some examples of the mob mentality that you have observed?

Why does this happen? Should we avoid it? Why or why not?

Bible Study

1. Read Acts 17:1-3. In verses 2 and 3, Luke uses three words to describe the process Paul used to help people understand and believe in Jesus. How would you describe Paul's evangelism strategy from these verses?
2. Why did he engage the Thessalonians in this way?
3. What did Paul want the Jewish Thessalonians to see or understand from the Old Testament Scriptures?

What do you think would be some of the passages that he would have had them consider?

4. Read Acts 17:4-5. What was the response to the gospel in Thessalonica?

What was at the heart of the opposition to Paul's team and the gospel according to verse 5?

5. Repeatedly in Acts and throughout the Scripture, we see how easy it is to stir up a mob of people. What is it about people that make this such a common occurrence?
6. Read Acts 17:6-10. What must have been true of the early Church and its leaders that they were able to have such a profound impact on the world that people were saying, "These men have upset the world?"

7. Read Acts 17:11-15. What does it mean that the Jews of Berea were “more noble-minded”?
How did they respond to the message of Paul and Silas?
8. What was the response to the gospel in the city of Berea?
9. What role did the new believers in these cities have in assisting Paul and his team to further their mission?
10. What do we know about what became of the churches of Macedonia (See Acts 16:1-17:15)?
Did these churches grow? Did they mature? Were they a part of fulfilling the mission? See II Corinthians 8:1-5, Philippians, and I and II Thessalonians for more information.

Application

1. What do we learn from this passage about how to engage people in considering Jesus Christ as the Savior that they need?
How is this different from what you have seen or heard about sharing the gospel?
2. Share stories of people you have dialogued with about Jesus. What happened? What have you learned?
3. Do you believe you can share the gospel in this way demonstrated in this passage? Why or why not?
4. How do you evaluate what you hear and read from men—even Christian leaders?
5. What is your attitude towards studying the Bible?
What can you do to become better equipped to read, understand and apply Scripture for yourself?
6. What is the appropriate role of the church in helping you know and apply the truth?