

Elmbrook Discussion Questions

Acts 17:1-12

Introduction

Have you had a conflict with someone that turned out well? What was the first step towards that conflict being resolved?

Head: *What is the passage saying?*

1. Summarize each of the following sections:
 - a. Acts 17:1-4
 - b. Acts 17:5-9
 - c. Acts 17:10-12
2. What offends and upsets the Jews in Thessalonica?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:2. How does this verse better help us understand the context of ministry in Philippi (Acts 16) and Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9)?
4. Describe the contrast experience with the people of Berea (Acts 17:10-12). How are the Bereans described?

Heart: *How does this passage influence my inner being?*

1. What thoughts or feelings are exposed in your own life when you encounter someone in outright opposition?
2. Consider the power structures that Paul confronts: religious power structures, political power structures, and economic power structures.
 - a. How does faith in Jesus turn these structures around?
 - b. Are there any particular structures in your own life that you would rather not be turned upside down by King Jesus?
3. How is God most clearly speaking to you through this study?

Hands: *How do I practically live this out?*

Here are some suggestions, or simply identify your own practical next step.

1. **Read:** Like the practice of the Bereans (Acts 17:11), give intentional, focused time this week to examine the Scriptures. Select a book of the Bible and read through it.
2. **Pray 1:** Create a list of people who are opposed to the message of Jesus. Pray that God softens their heart, and that God softens your heart to reach them.
3. **Pray 2:** Ask God to give you a resilience to be obedient to His call, and quick to respond to what may be uncomfortable for you. Ask God to reveal particular ways you can step into what is uncomfortable.
4. **Serve:** Be a blessing to someone in need, perhaps even someone different than you. Simply help and serve someone in the love of Jesus.

Digging Deeper Study:

1. **Watch:** Go further into understanding the ministry of Paul. Watch a video series, [In Pursuit of Paul](#) on [Rightnow Media](#), by Con Campbell.
2. **Read:** Pick up a biography: [Paul: A Biography](#) (N.T. Wright), [The Apostle: A Life of Paul](#) (John Pollock)