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FELLOWSHIP


Acts 17:1-9

The Gospel to Thessalonica

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At daybreak the chief magistrates sent the lictors



Lictors carrying axes, depicted on a silver denarius of Brutus from 54 BC

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1940 Italian Coin



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Traveling West

Acts 17:1 (NASB)
Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.

- This was a journey of about 106 miles.
- Those with Paul included Silas (17:4) and Timothy (17:14)
- Paul typically would preach first in synagogues

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The Gospel to the Synagogue

Acts 17:2, 3 (ESV)
And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he **reasoned** with them from the Scriptures, **explaining** and proving that it was **necessary** for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ."

- "Reasoned" is *dialegomai* means to "present intelligent discourse" CWS DNT
- "Explaining" is *dianoigo* means "to open completely" (i.e. 'the meaning of scripture')

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“Persuaded” and “Assigned”

Acts 17:4 (NASB)

And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women.

- “Persuaded” is *peitho_* (21x in Luke/Acts)
- “Joined” is *proskle_roo_* (NT hapax) which is from “*pros*” and *kle_roo_* (assign by lot)
- There are Jews, God-fearing Greeks and prominent women at the founding of the church
- Paul mentions this in 1 Thessalonians 1:8, 9

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Mob Action Against Christians

Acts 17:5 (ESV)

But the Jews were jealous, and taking some **wicked men of the rabble**, they formed a **mob**, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd.

- Schnabel “bad characters from the rabble in the agora” (marketplace)
- People would loiter in the agora and could be incited with the right words and situation

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Christians Stirred up Trouble?

Acts 17:6, 7a (LEB)

And when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brothers before the city officials, shouting, “**These people who have stirred up trouble throughout the world** have come here also, whom Jason has **entertained** as guests!...

- Irony: The enemies of the gospel incited a riot and accused Christians causing the trouble!
- “entertained” is *hupodechomai* = ‘welcome’ intensified with prefix (Lk 10:38; 19:6)

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King Jesus and Politics

Acts 17:7b, 8 (NASB)

...and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.” **They stirred up the crowd** and the city authorities who heard these things.

- They falsely accuse Christians of creating political upheaval against Rome
- The kingship of Jesus as a possible political issue came up in Luke 23:1-5 (plus stirring up people)
- Jesus as “King” caused mockery: (Luke 23:36-38)
- See Luke 20:20-25

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Jason Released on Bail

Acts 17:9 (LEB)

And after taking money as security from Jason and the rest, they released them.

- Jason likely had significant standing with the city officials

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