

## **Acts 17:1-10 Another King!**

**Following and Serving Jesus is the most exciting life that you can live. – Not without it's challenges.**

**A) But it is awesome to see how God meets us in the midst of our Challenges – pours His grace upon us.**

**B) We see a VIVID picture of that here in the book of Acts and particular in the life of the apostle Paul.**

**C) We are now into Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey.**

**D) God had opened new doors and new hearts!**

**Originally Paul wanted to go into Asia Minor – to the city of Ephesus.**

**A) But God had forbidden him – not yet time.**

**B) Instead God steered him by way of a vision into Europe – Macedonia – city of Philippi**

**C) First time the gospel went into Europe which is worth noting considering the impact the gospel would have on the world – from Europe.**

**As we begin Chapter 17 today we will see in this chapter Paul goes into 3 cities.**

**A) Each city there is a different response to the message of the gospel.**

**B) In Thessalonica – Resisted.**

**1) In Berea – Received { example**

**2) In Athens – Ridiculed**

**C) Athens – it was beneath them – beneath their philosophical greats –**

**1) Beneath the wisdom of the greeks**

**D) I point this out because things haven't changed in 2,000 yrs – still find these three response**

**1) Those who resist / Those who receive /.... ridicule**

**E) So as we look at the events in this chapter over the next few weeks we will better understand our world.**

**1) As we seek to be witnesses for Jesus in it!**

**V.1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.**

**A) So here we see that Paul comes to Thessalonica**

**B) A city where he would spend a total of one month but in that one month – God did a great work.**

**C) Read to you Paul wrote to the Thessalonians**

**1 Thess 2:1,2 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. 2 But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.**

**Once again – we are reminded that men who are empowered by the Spirit – serving God – will go through times of difficulty and suffering/ conflict**

**A) Boldness was in God and the empowering of the Holy Spirit**

**B) Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” NLT**

**C)How the early Church started – power of the HS and now at this point we are **15yrs into the STORY****

**1)Paul and his companions are still doing what they are doing – by the power of the HS**

**D)Church that is how we do what we are called to do as believers – **2,000 yrs later – power of the Spirit.****

**1)Not clever programs – not sophisticated strategies just pp surrendered to the HS.**

**Now before we move on there is one more thing I want you to note here in v.1 about their journey.**

**A)Dr. Luke who wrote the book of Acts under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit – makes it seem like this was just a Saturday stroll.**

**B)Having passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica,**

**C) Philippi was 33 miles from Amphipolis  
Amphipolis was 33 miles from Apollonia,  
Apollonia was 37 miles from Thessalonica,**

**D)Do the math discover – it was a journey of 100miles – Roman Rd – **hard terrain.****

**1)So this journey of 100 miles is covered in one verse**

**Now I don't think that he is belittling– the effort, the distance or the journey.**

**A)I think he is helping us see what Jesus meant when he said in Matthew 11:28 – **“My yoke is easy and my burden is light.”****

**B) See there are things that might look really hard to us.**

**1) We might think – walk 100 miles – to share the gospel. 97 miles This church to LAX**

**C) Walk all that way to go and share the gospel – not knowing what kind of reception we will have.**

**1) If we looked at Paul's previous experiences – probably not going to be well received.**

**D) We would wrestle with that – in fact a lot of us – wrestle with taking the gospel across the street.**

**Now imagine you walk from Vista to LAX to share the gospel some one said I will write a sentence about that. – ONE SENTENCE COME ON!**

**HARD – TIRED – FEET HURT**

**Follow me here: The point is NOT that it wasn't hard – we already read in 1 Thess 2 Conflict affliction/ trouble**

**A) The point is when that is the Yoke that Jesus puts on you it is light!**

**B) Think about what some of you have gone through over the past few years – tough things.**

**1) Battled with Cancer – Hard**

**2) Lost your Job – Hard**

**3) Lost your house – Hard**

**4) Forced career Change – Hard**

**C) All those things ARE HARD – DIFFICULT**

**1) But as you have trusted Jesus – clung to Jesus – He has sustained you.**

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**D) There has been a lightness to it – He has met you in your weakness with his grace – His power.**

## **Living in the Promise of Psalm 125:1-2**

**“Those who trust in the Lord, are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.**

**2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth and forever.”**

**How many of you know what I am talking about – you are in the midst of a Hard time – but Jesus has been surrounding – you – Lightness to it!**

**Amazing – Paul knew it too ! –**

**2 Corinthians 1:8 “we despaired even of life itself,”**

**2 Corinthians 4:17 “Light affliction.”**

**Precious brother & sister – Cling to Jesus! Trust Him!**

**A) This week in your journey **In the midst of the hardest trial** – Know this – He is surrounding you - so that you will not be moved**

**B) His yoke is easy – His burden is light – He carries you and He carries it.**

**"It is possible to trust God too little..but it is NOT possible to trust God too much..." Hudson Taylor**

**So Paul came to Thessalonica – He passed two small towns – **Amphipolis AND Apollonia,****

**A) Thessalonica which was **a major Metropolitan** area in the Roman empire.**

**B) It was a major Population center!**

**C) Here we see another pattern of Paul's – go into a major population area – **Reach that city for Jesus.****

**1) Church birthed – developed – that Church – would in turn reach the**

**surrounding smaller cities.**

**D) Good pattern** – I mention this because a lot is written today about the Large Mega Churches

**1) Put down those Churches – rise of the Home church movement – advocating smaller Churches**

**But I believe that God has ordained larger Churches in these last days – purpose of getting the gospel out.**

**Large churches have more resources, more people, opportunity to do more. – Reach more.**

**A) Think about this – We have around 100 pp involved in our outreach to camp Pendleton. –**

**1) If we were only a Church of 100 pp – not the case**

**B) Think about this – over the last 14 yrs we have sent out 25 families – full time Church plant or mission field**

**1) 25 families for a total of about 75 pp/ over 5pp per year**

**C) Prob. Not the case if we were a church of 100 pp.**

**D) Ministry to schools , homeless, - all of that would not be possible – if we were a Church of only 100pp.**

**S0 When new pp come here – I am always interested in how the Lord is going to use them.**

**A) Some of you are givers – support – tithes offerings**

**B) Some of you SERVE – you get involved**

**1) Some of you PRAY**

**2) Some of you WILL GO!**

**C) If you are not in one of those categories – you need to be asking the Lord – what do you have for me.**

**1) NOT HERE TO SIT! – Time to heal – few months**

**2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, SYNAGOGUE and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." 4 And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.**

**He reasoned with them: Reasoned - to converse, discourse with one, to discuss.**

**A) Primarily denotes "to ponder, or resolve in one's mind"**

**B) Christianity is a reasonable faith. – It gives the most reasonable answers to the questions that life poses.**

**C) Lots of pp have sought to answer the questions that life poses.**

**1) When did life begin, why is life so hard – so wonderful and yet so messed up.**

**D) C.S. Lewis – Was an atheist most of his life – came to faith after being a Renaissance Professor at Oxford in England – Institute for higher learning**

**E) After coming to Christ – Lewis said**

**“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen. Not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” – C. Lewis *Is Theology Poetry?***

**In other words when I look at the scriptures everything that I have ever pondered or thought about – every single question I have in my heart the scriptures give insight to those questions of life.**

**They explain everything else.**

**Paul is reasoning – explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ."**

**A) So Paul is taking them into the OT scriptures and explaining & demonstrating - Messiah had to suffer**

**B) Suffer for the sins of the world – die – taking on himself the wrath of God – pay the Price**

**1) No doubt – using passages like – Isaiah 53/PS 22**

**C) He would die – BURIED – 3 DAYS RISE AGAIN**

**1) those who believe in that – embrace that Saved.**

**Why is this important?**

**A) The Jews in the first century were under Roman oppression –**

**B) They had the tendency to do what we do – illustrated in that old Simon & Garfunkel song**

**“All lies in jest, man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest.... Lie, lie ....” Simon and Garfunkel**

**C) Song is true – we have a tendency to see and hear what we want to see and hear – block out the rest.**

**D) The Jewish pp were guilty of this – they were living under Roman oppression**

**1) There were all these OT promises – Messiah – deliverer – overthrow oppressors –**

**2) Set up EVERLASTING Kingdom**



**E) That is the messiah they were waiting for!**

**But there was a whole another set of OT scriptures that spoke of how the Messiah suffer and die.**

**A) Those they ignored**

**B) We see clearly from our vantage point – 2 comings**

**Hindsight is always 20/20**

**1) 1<sup>st</sup> to die – Oppression of sin and death –**

**2) 2<sup>nd</sup> Reign – set up his kingdom**

**C) In fact in order to reconcile these scriptures some of the Rabbis in the 1<sup>st</sup> century started to teach that there were 2 Messiahs**

**1) They called the reigning Messiah “Messiah Ben David,” after Israel’s mightiest king.**

**D) They called the suffering Messiah “Messiah Ben Joseph,” after the Old Testament hero who suffered unjustly at the hands of his brethren.**

**Paul was illustrating that both of these sets of scriptures had their fulfillment in Christ.**

**A) Result – V.4 Some of the Jews were persuaded –**

**B) Persuaded – They agreed – they believed**

**1) It speaks of both an intellectual as well as a heart decision.**

**C) They understood with their minds and embraced with their hearts.**

**So some of the Jews were persuaded – A great Multitude of the greeks –**

## **and some of the Prominent women.**

**A) Notice there are three groups of people in the synagogue - Jews of Course**

**B) Greeks - seeing pattern always greeks – gentiles**

**1) The Jews referred to them as Those who feared God. God fearers**

**C) Some leading women – Prominent women –**

**1) These were women who were educated – who had somehow escaped the oppression of Rome –**

**2) Greek and Roman society women were degraded.**

**D) These women broke free- Like Lydia – Business and education –**

## **Some Jews / Great Multitude of Greeks – some Leading women.**

**A) All hearing the Message of Jesus – responding to the message of Grace – freedom in Christ**

**B) Responding to this message of freedom – this is great – right – this is awesome –**

**1) Not everyone thought so!**

**5 But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.**

**C) The Jews who were not persuaded – no doubt being led by the religious leaders – grew envious**

**1) Seeing these people becoming free in Jesus – and they start to panic – driven by envy.**

**D) See throughout the history of Judaism in the first century – The**

pattern of the religious leaders in Israel was **very controlling**

**They had taken the law of God and the Law of Moses and interpreted – The Mishnah. / Talmud**

**A) Volumes – explaining what the laws meant and how they were to be interpreted.**

**B) What a good Jew was supposed to look like – what he could and couldn't do.**

**C) This was Their attempt to put man in this little box – control man -**

1) That is what religion seeks to do – But Jesus came to set men free. Gospel – free sin / rules / { **love response**

**These religious leaders are seeing people become free in Jesus and they don't like it.**

**A) They are going to lose their control – quit coming to the synagogue – quit tithing – Jealous**

**B) Their Jealousy leads them to do something crazy!**

1) They go into the market place looking for evil men to hire – KJV  
**“lewd men of the baser sort.”**

**C) Hooligans – thugs - They gather a mob!**

**Notice what envy and desiring control is doing to these men**

**A) These are the distinguished leaders of the synagogue and they are going into the Alleys and night looking for Gang members – thugs**

**B) They attacked the house of Jason – {Hospitality**

1) Attack is they assaulted – violence here.

**C)But Paul and his company were not there –**

**So they drag Jason to the rulers of the city! – The other controllers –  
Religious controllers v.6**

**A)These are the controllers in the political realm –**

**B)The religious controllers go to the political controllers – we've got  
problems**

**1)There is something going on in our city that is freeing pp – not good for  
either of us!**

**C)So they are stirring up the political rulers and unknowingly – they give  
Paul & his party the highest compliment they could give –**

**V.6 These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.**

**In reality the world was already upside down because of sin and evil –  
selfishness**

**A)Message of the gospel – the person of Jesus takes an upside down  
world – turns it rightside up**

**B)Upside down life – and turns it right side up.**

**1)Your life – your marriage**

**C)Here is how they appealed to the Political rulers**

**V.7-9 Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the  
decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king — Jesus." 8 And they  
troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these  
things. 9 So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they  
let them go.**

**Another King – Turns things right side up –**

**Turned the world upside down – now their kin is messing with our city  
{ Rub even today!**

**A)I don't want a KING who is going to come in and rearrange my life.**

**B)I don't want a King who is going to call the shots**

**1)Man wants to be on his own throne**

**Bb) People today CRY legalize gay marriage – unconstitutional –**

**1) not about the constitution it is about – wanting what THEY want instead of what God wants**

**C)Take *in God we trust* off of our money – Prayer out of our schools – unconstitutional**

**1)Nothing to do with Constitution – It is about – They don't want to be reminded with the reality there is a God.**

**D)If there is a God – then that means they have to answer to Him!**

**Another King – turning right side up! No He is messing with our system!**

**A)But before we get to Critical of those who are liberal and have hard hearts.**

**Bb)If we are honest we can be the same way**

**B)We hold on to bitterness instead of forgiving – because we say I deserve to be bitter – they hurt me**

**C)What we essentially are saying is King Jesus – stay away from that area of my life.**

**D)We live in fear – refusing to trust – saying – Jesus I really don't trust you to be my King**

**1)So I have got to figure this out on my own**

**Think about an area of your life – where you are resisting!**

**A)Area of compromise you refuse to surrender – Area where don't trust – area refuse to yield**

**B)Here is what you are saying – Lord in that area of my life – I don't want you to be my king!**

**C)Understand something crucial – here –**

**The word *ANOTHER* = another of a different kind.... A king UNLIKE Caesar.**

**D)Ceaser was an oppressor – Satan is too – all about bondage – fears – bitterness – lust – sin**

**E)All about bondage – oppression – control**

**The kingship of Jesus is UNLIKE that of the rulers of this world.**

**A)Jesus conquers with love, not armies.**

**B)His weapons are truth and Grace.**

**C)He conquers through His cross where he died for a world of lost sinners.**

**1)He died for His enemies. He died for You!**

**C)He wants to pour His love and grace out upon your life.**

**1)He wants to do what is best for you**

**D)He is interested in You as a person – not just a servant in His kingdom.**

**1)He knows your needs – fears – concerns – struggles and Desires to shower you in His blessings**

**E)THAT is our KING.... That is OUR Jesus.**

**Mark 15**

**Pilate's choice – King of the Jews – {Not my king**

**Every knee Bow – tongue confess – Jesus is King of kings – Lord of Lords**

**Bow now - TOO LATE LATER!**

**Christian Resisting – Jesus sorry – Surrender**

**Never bowed - Repent – Turn from sin**

**Rebellion – come home – Open heart again**