

Acts 17:1-9

Commissions + Customs = Blessings

Well we have made as far as chapter 17 in our study of the book of Acts

A) And there is a pattern that we have been seeing in our last several studies in the book of Acts -

B) As we have been following Paul on his missionary journeys we have seen that where ever Paul goes -

1) THINGS HAPPEN - Cities are being SHAKEN

C) The gospel gets preached - people get saved -

1) but then the enemies of Jesus and the gospel get riled up to oppose

D) Riots happen - Paul has been beaten and imprisoned

1) But lives and cities are being transformed!

So much so that by the time we get to Acts 17 - Paul and his crew have a reputation found in V.6

A) These are the ones who have turned the world upside down!

B) What a great description of the impact that the gospel was having on the Roman world

C) Wouldn't it be awesome if that was the reputation of the followers of Jesus living here in Vista/

1) in NC SD?

D) These are the ones who are turning Vista, NC SD upside down!

What if that was what was being said about you or me individually?

A) Their presence in this neighborhood, work place, school - this family is shaking things up

B) Turning things upside down.

C) Well today we see that Paul comes to the city of Thessalonica - and once again this pattern emerges

Note this about Paul is Paul was given a commission by Jesus -

A) And to fulfill that commission Paul developed some customs - practices

B) That resulted in the world being turned upside down.

C) We have been given some commissions by Jesus

1) We need to develop some customs / some practices to fulfill those commissions

D) When we develop customs to fulfill the commissions given to us by Jesus

1) That is when Blessings happen in our lives

Today we see that Paul comes to the city of Thessalonica

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. 2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, 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."

Notice this phrase in V.2 again Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures,

A) This is what we see about Paul - Paul had a custom that was attached to his commission

B) Commission + His Custom = Blessings

C) Paul was given a commission by Jesus

D) Paul speaks of His commission in Acts 26 when he is sharing his testimony with King Agrippa

Paul shared how he used to be against Jesus and his followers

A) Until he was personally met by Jesus on the Road to Damascus

B) He realized that Day that the gospel was true - Jesus was the Messiah he was risen from the dead

C) When Paul was sharing with King Agrippa -

1) he told the King of the commission that Jesus gave him that day:

D) Jesus said to me

¹⁶ But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. ¹⁷ I will deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as *from* the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, ¹⁸ to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me. Acts 26:16-18

Paul was commissioned to bring the gospel message -to Jews and Gentiles

A)to help turn people from darkness to light - from the power of Satan to God

B)So that they could receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life in JC

1)That is what believing in the Gospel does -

C)Takes people from darkness to light - living under the power of Satan to power of God - eternal life

D)So that was Paul's commission

Paul continued: ²² Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come— ²³ that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the *Jewish* people and to the Gentiles.” Acts 26:22

A)That was Paul's commission to take the gospel to the Jews and the Gentiles

B)Now To fulfill his Commission - Paul developed a Custom -see it in V.1

C)Paul comes to Thessalonica and he goes to the synagogue - that is there the Jews were -

1)he always starts with the Jews - His custom

Paul being a rabbi and former Pharisee - had this wonderful open door in the synagogues.

A)Custom to ask a traveling rabbi - if he wanted to share a word

B)Paul gets up to share on 3 consecutive sabbaths - notice his message he **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.”

This was the Custom that Paul used to fulfill his commission -

A)He would go into the synagogue on the Sabbath day - He would reason with them from the scriptures

B)Reason = Dialogue having a conversation –

His reasoning had two components Explaining and Demonstrating from the scriptures

A)So he is open up the word of God and showing them things and explaining what they mean

B)The focal point of Paul's explaining and demonstrating centered around this idea V.3

1)that THE CHRIST = the Messiah - was to suffer.

C)This was something that the Jewish people completely missed in studying the OT -

1)most still do this day.

D)They love the passages that speak of a coming Messiah who was going to rule and reign and this conquering King

E)Israel with Yossi - teaching overlooking the Valley of Megiddo - Jesus will come and Conquer

1)That was Awesome - What they are waiting for!!

What they failed to understand is the OT pointed to two comings of Messiah -

A)1st he would come as Lamb - suffer - sacrifice
At his 2nd coming he will come as a LION

B)So Paul is reasoning with them explaining and demonstrating -

1)taking them to all the OT passages they missed - Messiah first coming - he would suffer

C)He would be killed - but he would rise again from the dead.

D)This was Paul's point: -V.3c This Jesus whom I preach to you is **the Christ.**” - MESSIAH

E) So to fulfill his Commission - Paul developed this custom - synagogue preach Jesus

1) Suffering Messiah - Died and Rose

So far the result we have seen in every city has been the same/ we see it here once again in Thessalonica

4 And some of them (Jews) were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks (gentiles who converted to Judaism), and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.

A) So Jews and Gentiles were getting saved

B) Now what is interesting is Paul was only in Thessalonica for 3 Sabbaths -

1) 3 weeks but God did a great work there -

C) Notice how Paul describes it in his letter to the Thessalonians Thessalonians 1:5-9

5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. 6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. (Examples to the whole region)

8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. 9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, that phrase right there is speaking of the broader affect the gospel had on the gentiles - turn from idols) 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. 1 Thessalonians 1:5-9

D) So that was the result of Paul following his commission to take the gospel to the Jews and the gentiles

1) Jews and Gentiles were radically saved in Thessalonica

E) The city was being stirred up by the gospel - and that is when this happens V. 5

5 But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, riot set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. 6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too."

7 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.

Notice that phrase in v.7 - there is another King - Jesus

A) This was a huge issue in the Roman World -

B) In the Roman world they practiced emperor worship - Caesar is Lord!

C) The Christians wouldn't say that - it wasn't that they defied Rome - but Jesus is Lord - Jesus is King

D) They refused to say that Caesar was Lord - Jesus is Lord / KING

The Bible describes the 2nd coming of Jesus in Revelation 19 - Jesus comes back to earth - Lion

A) Power and glory - set up his Rule - He has a name written on his Thigh - King of Kings Lord and Lords

B) The reality today: There is only one true King for this world and His name is Jesus

C) Before Jesus comes to lay claim to planet earth - he is seeking to be the King of our hearts

1) Baptism today - Jesus is my King - following him

D) Question to answer today - Who is the King in your life?

1) Who are you living for?

For a lot of people Self is king - Living for self

A) Self is never satisfied

B) Others making money is King - Problem never have enough

C)Others Pleasure is King - never last - fading

Jesus is the only King who brings lasting Satisfaction

A)Jesus is the King who is more than enough for every situation in life

B)Jesus is the King who declared - The Devil is a thief and robber who comes to kill rob and destroy

C)But I have come that you might have life and that more abundantly

1)Promises eternal life - Quality now - Longevity later

D)Paul the apostle declared this in Philippians 2

⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-10

E)Bow now or you can bow later - but later is going to be too late!

So Paul was given a commission from Jesus and he developed a custom that helped him fulfill his commission

A)The result was the world was being turned upside down.

B)So too King Jesus has given us commissions as well

C)We need to develop Customs that will help us carry out the Commissions given us by King Jesus

D)Consider a few of those in the remainder of our time today

Here is a commission from the Lord Isaiah 1:18 -

Come now, and let us reason together," come let us consider this together

Says the Lord,

“Though your sins are like scarlet,

They shall be as white as snow;

Though they are red like crimson,

They shall be as wool.

The Commission is to COME to the King Jesus

A)Consider your options - Sin that separates you from God -

B)if you stay in your sin results in Eternal death

C)But there is another option - King Jesus says -I left heaven came to this earth - CROSS - pay the price...

D)Then after 3 Days I rose again from the dead proving - King over Death - over Sin - Satan

1)Offer life to anyone who believes that embraces

E)When we open our hearts to Jesus - embrace him

sins red like scarlet - forgiven - white as snow -

1)complete transformation

F)Invitation to you from King Jesus today - Consider the options

But here is what is so amazing - after you come to Jesus the first time for salvation -

A)He opens the door for you to keep coming

B)Because Jesus has opened the door - for relationship with God

1)we are encouraged to come to Him every day -

¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

C)Come to God when you need mercy

1)Forgiveness for daily failure

D)Who Fails every day? I do in some way.

1)Need forgiveness

Listen some of you need to hear this/ - When you sin you don't need to get saved again.

A)You are SAVED!!

B)You just need Daily forgiveness!

⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

C)The blood of Jesus Christ that cleansed us from our sin when we first got saved -

1)continues to cleanse us from daily sins

D)Daily forgiveness for daily failures

Come to the throne: For Grace in time of need

A)So we don't just come to the Lord for daily forgiveness for daily failure -

B)We come for daily strength for daily needs

C)Manifold trials - many colors

1)Manifold Grace - Grace to match the trial that we are facing

D)So He commissions us to come to him to receive Daily strength and grace for daily trials

E)And He commissions us to Come to him to receive Daily comfort for daily discouragement

²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

So we have this commission to come to the Lord

A)Draw near to him - Be with him

B)Jesus wants us to BE - BEFORE WE DO!

C)Q. What customs do you have in your life to make that commission to COME a reality?

D)What practices are in your life to make sure you experiencing and developing intimacy with Jesus

Listen if you develop a custom of starting your day off by seeking the Lord in Prayer -

A)spending time in the word

B)You will be setting yourself up to receive mercy, grace and comfort in your time of need.

But if you don't have that custom established in your life of starting your day with Jesus

A)If you're coming to God is more sporadic and haphazard

B)you are going to be more inclined to lean on your own strength

C)You are going to be more prone to fall under condemnation when you don't get it right

D)But if your custom is to **seek first the kingdom of God** - in prayer and devotions

1)His Promise - all things will be added unto you!!!

So you start your day with Him - look ahead to what is on the calendar - I am going to need grace for that

A)Strength for that.

B)You end your day - spending time with Jesus -

1)Lord I need forgiveness for that

C)Make it your custom to begin and end your day with Jesus

1)You will receive forgiveness for daily failure

D)and grace and strength for daily needs -

1) And comfort for daily discouragement

So we have this Commission to come to King Jesus

A)Everything else flows from this commission

B)Drawing near to him - spending time with him -

1)Developing intimacy with King Jesus

C)Result you find yourself falling in love with Jesus.

When you love King Jesus you want to be engaged in the work of his Kingdom

A)Another Commission To Go!!

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen. Matthew 28:21-22

B)Who is this commission to GO for? All of us

C)What are we supposed to do? Make disciples

D)Where ? Everywhere - Go into all the world Anyway possible -

D)Vista - NCSD your neighborhood your work place- your school - your neighborhood - your family

That is the Commission! - So what customs and practices are you establishing to help you do that?

A)What can we learn from Paul ?

B)His Paul's customs based on his gifts and his open doors or opportunities

C)His gifts - brilliant mind - well versed -

Made way for opportunities /open doors

A)Paul Synagogue that was his custom - that was an open door

B)Can I encourage you to Look for opportunities - Ask to Pray at restaurants

C)You're a mom - gifts taking care of your kids

1)Opportunities - Other moms - How do you do it

D)Jesus!

Mom and I play groups - Your kids and other moms

A)Look for ones that aren't all Christians - or look for opportunities to invite non-Christians

B)Your work

1)Your giftings - really good at your Job -

C)instead of just doing your job well - look for how you can help someone else

D)In so many places in our world today - abnormal -help someone else

1)That might lead to an opportunity

What are your gifts - what opportunities and open doors do you have to use your gifts bless others

A)Share Jesus with others

B)Looking for ways to engage in the Kingdom work of Jesus

C)When you Love Jesus you also want to invest in the work of Jesus

Another Commission from the Lord - GIVE

“One tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD and must be set apart to him as holy. Leviticus 27:30

A)Isn't tithing an OT thing - part of the law?

B)Actually tithing Pre-dates the law

C)It is seen in the OT before the Law - Genesis 14

1)Abraham gave a tenth of the spoil to Melchizedek this kingly priest - picture of Jesus

D)Definitely Seen in the law

E)Also seen in the NT and was commended by Jesus

Here is what is interesting - is there is only one place in scripture where God challenges us to test him

A)It happens to be regarding this commission to give

8 “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. Malachi 3:8

B)Their failure to bring their tithes and offerings was seen as robbing God -

1)taking from him what was really his

C)Concept - Everything we have belongs to God - he says you bring me 10%

1)and you live on and use the rest

The people or Israel were not doing that - God says you are robbing me

A)Then God issued this challenge

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” Says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. Malachi 3:10

B)God challenges us to be Givers -

Now What is interesting on this commission the Lord also gives us the custom of the Commission

A)God told his people they were to BRING THE first fruits of their increase to God

Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase. Proverbs 3:9

B)First fruits instead of the leftovers

Paul encouraged the church in Corinth to bring their offerings on the first day of the week - Sunday

A)Where we get this idea that Giving is a part of our worship to God

B)Principle : God is a giver - he gave us his very best - Jesus - First fruits

C)Been said Giving is not God's way of raising funds - it is his way of raising kids

D)Commissioning us to be GIVERS - His way of Seeking to make us more like him

E)So Commission to COME / Commission to GO
Commission to GIVE

One more: Commission to love

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:33-34

When I am in love with King Jesus - I want to have the heart of Jesus toward others

A)So What practices can we put into place to help us be more loving?

B)Loves is patient and Kind - So I want to remember - we are all a work in progress

C)All still growing none of us has arrived

Love bears all things believes all things hopes all things

A)Love doesn't jump to wrong conclusions

B)Seeks clarity - what did you mean by that ?

C)You did this -or said this but - I don't think that is really you. - What is going on?

1)What did you mean by that

D)Walk in Love

What customs do you need to put in place in your life to fulfill the commission to Go

A)What customs do you need to put in place in your life to fulfill the commission to GIVE

B)What customs do you need to put in place in your life to fulfill the commission to LOVE

C)PRAY THAT THROUGH - but know this it all STARTS with /

1)FLOWS from the commission to COME

DON'T KNOW JESUS TODAY!

A)Come lets us consider the options -

B)Forgiven? Guilt removed - Come to me

C)Commission of Communion - Do this in remembrance of me - partake believing

D)Unworthy manner - No

1)Give your heart to Jesus

Commission - Baptized

Commission to Go!

A)Those who are in Love with King Jesus want to be engaged in the work of the Kingdom of Jesus

Commission to GIVE

A)Those who are in love with King Jesus want to invest in the Kingdom of Jesus

Commission to Love

A)Those who are in Love with King Jesus want to have the heart of Jesus toward others

B)But know this it all STARTS with / FLOWS from the commission to COME

DON'T KNOW JESUS TODAY!

A)Come lets us consider the options -

B)Forgiven? Guilt removed - Come to me

C)Commission of Communion - Do this in remembrance of me - partake believing

D)Unworthy manner - No

1)Give your heart to Jesus

Commission - Baptized