

Big Idea: In Acts 17, Paul has varied receptions in the cities he visits: hostile crowds accuse Paul of “turning the world upside down” but others, more noble, check what Paul says against the Scriptures. Paul has both courage and faith in God, and he also understands the culture. So Paul acts and engages.

I. Thessalonica*Acts 17:1-9*

What did Jews tend to miss in the O.T. regarding the Messiah?

Acts 17:2-3
also: Isaiah 53:4-6

In what ways are these accusations against the Christians totally true?

*Acts 17: 6-7***II. Berea***Acts 17:10-15*

Why exactly were the Bereans “more noble”?

Acts 17:11

For discussion: Is it best to always be “open minded”? Why or why not?

see Isaiah 5:20-21

III. Athens*Acts 17:16-21*

What sort of challenge is this audience? How is it different?

IV. Conclusion

In what ways is God calling you to be courageous with the truth?

V. Extra Credit, on your own: Read Paul’s speech to the men of Athens.*Acts 17:22-34*

How and why is Paul’s speech so different from his discussions with the Jews?

Why does Paul emphasize that God is both personal and the Creator?

Acts 17:24-19

What does Paul bring up that generates such a strong response from the audience? *Acts 17:30-34*