

Thessalonica and Berea
Lesson #3
Acts 17:1-15

Paul and Silas used their night in the Philippian jail as an opportunity to spread the gospel. Between an earthquake and their faithfulness to share the way of salvation, that night a jailer and his household became part of God's family. But the presence of Paul and Silas was too disturbing for the city officials, so they were "*requested to leave.*"

Thessalonica – Acts 17:1-9

1. The missionary team left Philippi and traveled East passing through Amphipolis and Apollonia stopping 100 miles later at the city of Thessalonica. What insight did Luke give as to why Paul may have chosen to stop there? (Acts 17:1)

2. Verse 2 begins, "As his custom was," Using Acts 17:2, 3:
 - What was that custom?

 - How long did he follow this "custom?"

 - What did he do there?

3. Who did Luke say responded to the gospel message presented by Paul and Silas? (Acts 17:4)

4. Look carefully at that list.
 - What segments or classes of society were represented?

 - Which group was the largest percentage of those responding to the gospel?

5. Whenever God is at work, the enemy is right behind. After sharing those who had received salvation, the next sentence began with "but;" but what? (Acts 17:5a)

6. Paul and Silas were staying with a man named Jason, so the first search was at Jason's house. When Paul and Silas weren't found there, what did the officials do? (Acts 17:6, 7a)
7. Where did they say that Paul and Silas had caused trouble? (Acts 17:6)
8. That was quite a statement! What charges did they bring against Paul and Silas? (Acts 17:7b)
9. What was the reaction of the crowd and the city officials to those charges? (Acts 17:8)
10. What happened to Jason? (Acts 17:9)

Berea – Acts 17:10-15

11. *"As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea."* Upon arrival at Berea, where did Paul and Silas go first? (Acts 17:10)
12. The Bereans are described in verse 11; what did Luke say about these people?
13. Notice the list of those who believed in Berea. Who was mentioned? (Acts 17:12)
14. But, just as before, word traveled and although Berea was 50 miles from Thessalonica, what happened when the news reached Thessalonica? (Acts 17:13)
15. A pattern seems to be emerging on Paul's missionary journeys. Once again the new believers ("the brothers") sent Paul away. Who stayed behind in Berea? (Acts 17:14)

16. This time, however, Paul was not sent away at night. How were these noble of character Berean men different in the way they treated Paul? (Acts 17:15a)

17. What were Paul's final instructions to them? (Acts 17:15b)

18. **Reflect:** For all who read the book of Acts, the Bereans have become a role model for the Christian Church. What do you see modeled in the lives of those Bereans that would be equally important for us today?