



October 1, 2017  
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## Beyond Borders

Lesson Four • Acts 17:1-15

### Turning the World Upside Down

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Paul and Silas are accused of “turning the world upside down”.

Can Christ-followers still make that kind of difference in the world today for the cause of Christ?

#### Turning the World Upside Down

### 1. When the WORD of God Is Proclaimed...

#### **Wanted: People with Conviction**

Conviction is the human RESPONSE to God’s sovereign call to bridge the gap to all peoples with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, even in the midst of difficulty.

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

#### **Embrace Two Convictions**

- What we proclaim from the SCRIPTURES is divine and essential.

*Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 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.” Acts 17:2-3*

- What we proclaim about the SAVIOR is persuasive and divisive.

*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. But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious... Acts 17:4-5*

## 2. ...Then the WORLD of People Is Changed!

#### **Expect Converts and Conflicts**

- Some more open-minded Jews RECEIVED the Gospel and believed the truth of Jesus Christ.

*Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men. Acts 17:10-12*

- Some jealous Jews RESISTED the Gospel and tried to suppress the truth of Jesus Christ.

*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. 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. Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus.” And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go. Acts 17:5-9*

*But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds. Acts 17:13*

#### **The Call to Bridge the Gap Is One of Conviction**

We proclaim another king—JESUS CHRIST, and when we do it turns the world upside down.

*“These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus.” Acts 17:6-7*

#### **Embolden Your Gospel Conviction**

- Know God’s Word by reading it and hearing it.
- Engage people in your world in Gospel conversations.
- Attend the World Outreach Celebration on October 25-29.