

Unstoppable: On To Thessalonica And Berea

Acts 17:1-15

1. Share an instance when you saw yourself “faking it” or pretending to be someone you weren’t. How did you feel during this act? What about after?
2. As you go through your discussion tonight, keep in mind that God never asks us to pretend. He welcomes our questions, doubts, and honest thoughts. Take a minute to read John 20:24-29 and discuss Jesus’ reaction to someone who doubted. How might you have reacted if you were Jesus?
3. Read Acts 17:1-15. Notice the structure of the two passages (1-9 & 10-15). Spend some time comparing and contrasting the two passages (for those who like charts, feel free to use the diagram on the back). What stands out to you?
4. Notice difference between the result of Paul’s ministry in Thessalonica (“some” believed) and the result of Paul’s ministry in Berea (“many” believed). What might Luke be implying here?
5. Luke commends the Bereans for being committed to the truth. In your opinion, are most Christians committed to the truth today? Why or why not?
6. Has there ever been a time in your life when you investigated what you believe? If so, share what you discovered and how it affected you.
7. What are some practical steps that you can take to “make your faith your faith”? If you’ve taken steps to do this in the past, share them with one another.

Make your faith your faith.

In Thessalonica

1 When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. 2 As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah," he said. 4 Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

5 But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd.^[a] 6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, 7 and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." 8 When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. 9 Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.

In Berea

10 As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. 11 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. 12 As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

13 But when the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God at Berea, some of them went there too, agitating the crowds and stirring them up. 14 The believers immediately sent Paul to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea. 15 Those who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

