

SYNAGOGUES, SCRIPTURES, AND RIOTS

Acts 17:1-15

by Bishop Emeritus Robert Solomon

12 & 13 August 2023

The Connection between Synagogue and Scripture

1. Paul visited synagogues.
2. He used the scriptures because the Jews were supposed to be familiar with the Jewish Bible.
3. The implication for us is that the Bible is the basis of all our preaching and teaching.
4. Take away the Bible and you take away the basis and effective of ministry.

The Positive Response to the Preaching of the Gospel

1. Some of the Jews in Thessalonica were **PERSUADED** (v 4).
2. The Bereans **BELIEVED** (v 12). It is a different Greek word but means the same. To be convinced and place one's faith in what was being said.
3. The purpose of good preaching is to persuade. Paul was best equipped to do this.
4. But why was Paul not able to convince all his listeners?

The Negative Reactions to Gospel Preaching

1. Not all believed. In fact, many rioted.
2. The negative reactions can range from ignoring the message to mocking it to violent attacks. We are now at a time where there is growing hostility against the church and the gospel. We should not be discouraged, but all the more turn to God in prayer and rely on His protection, wisdom, and power.

Conclusion

1. The centrality of the Bible cannot be overemphasised. We must not let it go, especially in our day. **FAITHFULNESS**. Truth
2. Our reliance on the Holy Spirit should be emphasised and experienced. **FRUITFULNESS**. Power.