

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **September 13, 2020** sermon, "It Was Necessary." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 17:1-9) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE EMPHASIZE THE NECESSITY OF CHRIST'S WORK, NOTE . . .

1. The efforts we should undertake (1)
 - a. Paul moved into metropolitan population-rich cities, the very heart of danger.
 - i. He had been beaten, arrested and threatened.
 - ii. But he persisted in proclaiming Jesus Christ.
 - b. Make little of the challenges while you press on in proclaiming Jesus.
2. The teachings we should provide (2-3)
 - a. Paul's custom was to begin in the Jewish synagogues and proclaim Jesus from the OT.
 - b. Note Luke's emphasis on how Paul presented Jesus Christ
 - i. Reasoned from Scripture. There was dialogue. He answered their questions.
 - ii. Explaining. He "birthed" a clear picture of Jesus from the Scriptures. He helped them see that Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies which were given of the Messiah.
 - iii. Proving. Jesus' persecution and crucifixion were no accident. The prophets made it clear that the Messiah would be rejected and even put to death. But that he would not see decay but be raised from the dead. It was necessary!
3. The divisiveness we should expect (4-9)
 - a. Some people were persuaded to join Paul and Silas.
 - b. Many of the Jews rejected Paul and Silas and their teaching that Jesus is the Messiah.
 - i. They were jealous of the support they received.
 - ii. They used civil and legal means, producing false accusations and persecution.
 - c. Our work: to proclaim Jesus and endure persecution faithfully

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Paul and Silas had a strategy which seemed to focus on city-centers, and then encourage those congregations to reach the burghs and towns around them. This remains the typical, though not the only, strategy for missions today. Do you see this happening? What are some of the reasons this is so effective? Are there specific missionaries you pray for who are following this strategy?
2. Based on #1, above: Paul and Silas always faced obstacles and challenges to proclaiming Jesus Christ. They were shipwrecked, beaten, stoned, left for dead and shoved out of town, but they never got discouraged or distracted from their mission. How does their example challenge you in sharing your faith today? Are there any obstacles that have discouraged you? What do you think Paul would do with the obstacles we face in the US today?
3. Based on #2, above: We focused on three words: "reasoning," meaning that Paul answered the questions they were asking; "explaining" meaning that he birthed new categories of thinking about the Messiah; and "proving," meaning presenting evidence that Messiah had to suffer. Which of these words best inform/encourage your current ministry of proclaiming Christ?
4. Based on #3, above: Discuss: divisiveness is a given, but faithfulness will overcome it.