

I. UNWILLING

A. Paul Travels to Thessalonica

1. They had been thrown in Jail in Philippi
 - a. They were beaten though uncondemned
 - i. Left to rot in prison despite being Romans
 - ii. The multitudes passed judgement without a trial
 - iii. But GOD knew exactly where they were!
 - b. And that Philippian jailor needed to hear the Gospel
 - i. And we have a book today written to the Philippians
 - ii. To that church that included many pillars of the faith
 - iii. Almost certainly Lydia. Almost certainly that jailor.
 - c. Notice that the missionaries were not stopped by small matters
 - i. Jail is a small matter in comparison to eternity
 - ii. Beating is a small matter in comparison to eternity
 - iii. And sometimes we won't witness because of a harsh look!
2. Paul leaves town when he gets "good and ready" to go ACTS 16:40
 - a. The minister of the Gospel is "easy" – not rushed!
 - b. JAMES 3:17 – "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."
 - c. It's ALWAYS time to fellowship!
3. Travels through Amphipolis and Apollonia to Thessalonica
 - a. A great deal of travel on foot
 - b. Philippi to Thessalonica is about 100 miles
 - c. We have two letters to the church that will be established there
 - i. Two letters relating a shining example of church character
 - ii. And this is their first meeting with Paul
 - iii. Not a very auspicious beginning

B. Paul preached to the Jews

1. ROM. 1:16 – "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
 - a. When he entered a city with a synagogue he would go there
 - b. When he entered a city without, he'd go where the Jews were
 - c. That's why he was by the riverside with Lydia in Philippi
2. It was his MANNER – his custom, his HABIT, to witness to his people
 - a. Paul as a Jew knew he knew Jews best
 - b. Witness to your family, your friends, your kinfolk
 - c. You know them best!

3. And he knew his audience – He preached from the Old Testament
 - a. He preached about the prophesied Christ
 - b. He started with where they were – he OPENED
 - c. He ALEGED (that means make a statement in an argument)
 - d. He had a MESSAGE about the Christ they said they awaited
- C. Some were WILLING to hear, to consider, and to believe
 1. That is the order. One must first HEAR, then one can consider
 - a. Only THEN can one believe
 - b. ROM. 10:17 – “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - c. Let them hear the Bible – not your opinion (MEMORIZE Scripture)
 2. They didn’t just lead them in a prayer on a doorstep
 - a. They DISCIPLINED THEM (vs. 4)
 - b. And we know they BAPTIZED them, because a church was formed
 - c. 1 THESS. 1:1 – “Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - d. They fulfilled the three parts of the Great Commission
 - e. MATT. 28:19-20 – “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
 - f. He continued to for three weeks (vs. 2)
 3. But SOME were unwilling to hear!
 - a. It’s sad when someone won’t listen to good sense
 - b. These were IGNOBLE – the opposite of nobility
 - c. The Bible uses this phrase: they OPPOSE themselves
 - d. And the UNWILLING created an UPROAR

II. UPROAR

- A. The Jews looked on with ENVY
 1. Envy is the feeling of discontent and resentment based upon someone else’s possessions, abilities, or status. Coveting is longing for those things.
 - a. They didn’t WANT people to be on fire for God
 - b. They didn’t WANT people to be Saved
 - c. They were MAD / DISCONTENT / RESENTFUL in other’s blessings
 2. Envy is a SIN – it is a work of the flesh
 - a. GAL. 5:19-21 – “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, (20) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, (21) Envyings, murders, drunkenness,

revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

b. PROV. 14:30 – “A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.”

c. It LEADS to every evil work – JAMES 3:13-18 (turn to see)

3. Thieves want your blessings. Envious want you to LOSE your blessings.

B. They took terrible people and caused an uproar (vs. 5)

1. These were the loud mouths, the unruly ones

2. They didn’t care about spiritual things, just always ready to fight

3. They were LEWD – “Given to the unlawful indulgence of lust; addicted to fornication or adultery; dissolute; lustful; libidinous.”

C. They drew Jason out of his home (vs. 6)

1. Jason had “received” them – was showing them hospitality

a. But look at the charge!

b. They turned the world UPSIDE DOWN!

c. Oh yes! We should live and upside down life in the world’s view!

2. But they couldn’t find Paul – they took him out the back door

3. When the UPROAR happened, the believers USHERED Paul away

III. USHERED

A. Paul was protected by the brethren

1. We ought to protect each other and care for each other

2. Don’t rely on others to do something – you do it!

3. A need seen is an assignment given

4. Workdays, outreach, cleaning, helping!

B. Jesus said, MATT. 10:14 – “And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.”

1. So Paul departed thence

2. But the Gospel seed took root and grew!

C. So Paul was USHERED away from persecution, and went UNDAUNTED to Berea

IV. UNDAUNTED

A. The HEARERS were NOBLE at Berea

1. The word “noble” isn’t used this way much anymore

2. It doesn’t mean “or royal lineage” or highborn

3. “Ingenuous; candid; of an excellent disposition; ready to receive truth”

B. The entire city was willing to hear until bad influences spread from Thessalonica

1. That’s how scorn travels, btw, like GOSSIP! It’s a cancer!

a. Proverbs tells us that of the SIMPLE

b. Who can become WISE, but might also become a FOOL

c. And FOOLS, when they reject truth, become SCORNERS

2. SCORNERS are not happy to let others be HAPPY
3. They must destroy and tear down and kick and jeer and insult
4. Look at the effect that a little scorn produces!
 - a. An entire city called NOBLE
 - b. But tarred with the stain of SCORNFULNESS
 - c. And the people, who were peaceable, were stirred up (vs. 13)
- C. But the UNDAUNTED missionaries continued on their URGENT mission
 1. Paul will go to Athens
 2. Silas and Timothy will stay to teach

V. URGENT

- A. But what was the URGENT message?
 1. That the Jews were all wrong about the Christ
 2. They thought He would come as a political leader, a warlord
 - a. They taught that God would overthrow the Romans
 - b. And setup a new King on David's throne
 - c. They ignored parts of the prophecy
 3. Paul preached that SAME message in both cities (and everywhere)
 - a. That Christ MUST NEEDS HAVE SUFFERED (vs. 3)
 - b. That Christ MUST NEEDS HAVE DIED
 - c. That Christ MUST NEEDS HAVE RISEN AGAIN
 - d. This is the GOSPEL that they were ignoring!
 - e. 1 COR. 15:3-4 – "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; (4) And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"
- B. And that THIS Christ the Scriptures speak about is JESUS
 1. There is no other! He is the only begotten Son of God
 2. He is the ONLY Savior
 3. He is the ONLY way of escape from death and Hell
 4. Turn to Him. Trust HIM to Save you and He will!
- C. Be Saved Today!