

The Upside Down Kingdom: Sermon Notes

Acts 17:1-15

The Unsettling Message

Acts 17:2–3 (ESV) And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.”

Paul Reasoned from the Scriptures

In Ephesus- Acts 17:17

In Corinth- Acts 18:4, 19:7

In Troas- Acts 20:7

Paul Proved (placed alongside, presented like a meal)

Paul Explained (Opened) the Scriptures

Acts 16:14 (ESV) One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

Luke 24:25–27 (ESV) And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Christ in All the Scriptures- The Nature of God and How We Read the Bible

Paul- Acts 13:32–33 (ESV) And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, ³³ this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus.

Jesus- And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (Luke 24:27)

Peter- Acts 3:24 (ESV) And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days.

Stephen- Acts 7

Apollos- Acts 18:28 (ESV) He powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

The Upside Down King- the Christ Who Suffers

Vs 3. ... it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ."

Acts 17:7 (ESV) and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus."

Isaiah 53:5 (ESV) But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Matthew 16:21 (ESV) From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

The Upside Down People

Acts 17:5 (ESV) But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd.

Acts 17:13 (ESV) But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds.

Acts 17:11–12 (ESV) Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. ¹² Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.

Noble- birth or nature

Receive (welcome, accept)- Matthew 10:40 (ESV) Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.

Examine (judge, separate carefully)- John 5:39 (ESV) You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.