

Rabble and Nobles

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I. Introduction. Text: Acts 17:1-25.

II. Paul always obeyed the order to go to the Jews with the gospel first.

A. In Thessalonica he went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews for three weeks.

B. He began with the Scriptures with the death and the resurrection of Christ.

1. The Jews were happy to hear about the Messiah's glory, but not His suffering.

2. Paul taught that there was only one Messiah, and probably begun with the teachings of Isaiah 53, Psalm 22 and Psalm 16.

C. Some were persuaded but many of the overly religious were not.

D. Many of those who were won over were women.

1. Their Greek philosophies and empty lifestyles left them empty so they turned to Judaism.

2. They found liberation and satisfaction in the gospel.

III. The tactics of the rabble—many were unwilling to accept defeat at the hands of logic so they resorted to violence to accomplish their ends.

A. A crowd can easily be manipulated by going the way a leader directs.

B. God responded by occupying Paul and Silas with other things when the crowd sought them out.

C. The world was turned upside down at the Fall and that is why it never works right.

D. The crowd accused Paul and Silas of threatening their way of life and the status of Caesar.

E. Since they could not find Paul and Silas, they held a sum of money from one of the believers preventing them from returning.

IV. The Bereans.

A. They had a noble mind and a cautious heart checking what Paul said against the Scripture.

B. One should never give himself to following a single man.

C. The Jews from Thessalonica chased Paul out of town, but a church had already been established permitting Paul to leave accordingly.

Application questions:

1. What tool did Paul use to appeal to the Jews about Jesus?

2. Why is it so important that a person be convinced on their own according to the Scripture?

3. Explain the importance of having a church set up in every community. Why was this so essential for Paul?
