

# TURNUED THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN ACTS 17:1-9

Text: Acts 17:6

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And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

Introduction:

What a tribute to Paul and Silas! Wherever Paul went, things happened. Souls were saved, people took sides, feelings were stirred, decisions were made, and lines were drawn. Paul did not slip into town, hold a few quiet meetings, enjoy some good home cooking, pick up a generous honorarium, and slip back out of town again without anyone knowing or caring that he had been in town.

How did the early disciples turn the world upside down? What was the secret to their success?

They Turned The World Upside Down:

# **1. THROUGH THE POWER THEY POSSESSED**

1 Cor. 2:1-4

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. [2] For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. [3] And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. [4] And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

A. He didn't rely of persuasive arguments.

B. He didn't rely of personal ability.

2 Cor. 3:5

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

# **2. THROUGH THE PRAYING THEY PRACTICED**

Acts 4:17-18

But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. [18] And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

#### Acts 4:23-24

And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. [24] And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

#### Acts 12:1-7

Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. [2] And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. [3] And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) [4] And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. [5] Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. [6] And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. [7] And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

- The early church brought to God their frustrations in prayer.
- The early church brought to God their feelings in prayer.
- The early church brought to God their foes in prayer.
- The early church brought to God their friends in prayer.
- The early church brought to God their failures in prayer.
- The early church brought to God their future in prayer.

### **3. THROUGH THE PERSON THEY PREACHED**

Acts 2:22-24

Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: [23] Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: [24] Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

The all consuming desire of the early church was to introduce others to the Jesus Christ of the cross. They were absolutely unconcerned about everything in the world but one thing, and that was teaching and preaching Jesus Christ.

- A. They expounded the person of the cross
- B. They expounded the purchase of the cross
- C. They expounded the power of the cross
- D. They expounded the pardon of the cross

Getting the message of the cross out is the TRUST of the church, the TASK of the church, and the TEST of the church.

#### **4. THROUGH THE PRICE THEY PAID**

Many of the early church were martyr for their service of Christ. They rejoiced that were counted worthy to suffer for the cause of Christ.

The measure of the importance of Christ is manifested in the measure to which you will go to make him known to others. If it meant jail to the early church, so be it. They were not going to cease to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

The cause was greater than life itself.

They went to extremes to make Christ known. It does not take great men to do great things; it only takes consecrated men.

John Wesley once said, "If I had 300 men who feared nothing but God, hated nothing but sin, and were determined to know nothing among men but Jesus Christ, and Him crucified, I would set the world on fire." The early church got involved in the cause of Christ.

In the book *One Crowded Hour* the author describes an incident in Borneo in 1964.

Soldiers were asked if they would be willing to jump from airplanes into combat against the Indonesians. The soldiers didn't clearly understand what was involved, but they bravely said they would do it, asking only that the plane fly slowly over a swampy area and no higher than 100 feet. When they were told that the parachutes would not have time to open at that height, the soldiers replied, "Oh, you didn't mention parachutes before!"