



The Acts of the Spirit
FLIPPING THE GREEK WORLD
UPSIDE-DOWN

ACTS 17:10-15

“THE BEREANS”

AUGUST 18, 2024

SUMMARY

In this next installment of our series of acts, Paul is repeatedly interrupted on his way to Rome. Taking one forced detour after another to different Greek cities throughout Rome, he is continually challenged and mistreated as he shares the Gospel faithfully with both Jews and Greeks.

But in Berea, Paul finds a different community. He finds a curious, connected, and committed group of people who discern the scriptures together, leading to faith in Jesus. Because they read the scriptures in the context of their community, they can more easily see Paul's arguments for the messiah and hold each other accountable. Their communal nature knits them together and makes them ripe for receiving the Gospel.

Pastor Joey warned us that few things are more dangerous than someone reading their Bible in isolation. That isn't to say we shouldn't read our Bibles alone and frequently. However, the scriptures should primarily be discerned together in a community. This edifies our Souls, helps us hold each other accountable, and deepens our communion with God.

Today, we must see that our Western individualism/isolationism makes us vulnerable to the misuse of God's word and stunting of our spiritual growth. We need each other to keep us safe from the subconscious manipulation of the scriptures and to keep our hearts soft to God and each other.

Today, let's stir our hearts to desire more of a Berean community and experience all God has for us through his Church.

DISCUSSION

Western culture is a modern, individualized, isolated culture, while ancient Middle Eastern culture is a Traditional, communal Culture. Each has benefits and challenges.



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: Please feel empowered to use only the questions that are helpful for the context of your group.

- What are some of the benefits and drawbacks of our western rugged individualism?



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- How has Western individualism impacted your personal faith journey?
- How has Western individualism impacted our Churches/fait communities?

Extract the Truth

Read the text: Acts 17:10-15

- What Jumps out to you from this story?
- What can we learn from Paul's flexibility, being detoured on the path towards his Goal of reaching Rome?
- How does Paul's experience with Jewish Bereans differ from that of Jews in other cities?
- Why did the Bereans' Communal Christianity make them ripe to receive the Gospel message from Paul?
- Paul and The Bereans both demonstrated the following qualities in differing ways:

Qualities	Paul	Bereans
Curios (Intellectually Honest)	Willing to be Redirected	Willing to be Challenged
Connected	Reading God's Word in Community and Under Authority	Reading God's Word in Community and under Authority
Committed	Unwavering Devotion to Glorifying God above maintaining comfort and safety	Unwavering Devotion to Glorifying God above maintaining tradition/status quo.

- Beyond the movement of the Holy Spirit, which of these qualities do you believe was the most significant factor in Bereans receiving the Gospel?
- Which qualities are most challenging/convicting to you today and why?
 - Curious (Intellectually Honest) - Willing to be challenged/Redirected
 - Connected- Reading God's Word in Community and under Authority
 - Committed- Unwavering Devotion to Glorifying God above personal desires
- Fueled by Grace and a desire to experience a deeper life with God, what is God prompting you to do or change about that area of your life?
- What do you need from this group to help make that change?

Pray