

Small Group Guide

Various Passages - Acts 17:10-35

From the sermon - Act 46

When Paul and Silas were in Thessalonica they encountered a great resistance from the Jews. The message of the Gospel was not welcomed with opened arms, and instead it was seen as a threat. However, when Paul and Silas went to Berea they had quite the opposite experience. The hearts of the Jews in this city were much more generous and receptive to God's Word.

When God speaks to us through His Word we have two options: we can either shut it down and choose not to listen, or we can receive it and decide to let it work in our hearts to bring about change. God's Word is very convicting, and many times we may not want to hear what He is saying. So, the question we must ask ourselves is this: how bad do we want God to work in our lives?

1. What might be some of the reasons people shut their hearts off to God?
2. Why do you think change is so uncomfortable? Why do we not like change, even in our spiritual lives?
3. What is the importance of always staying open and ready to be molded by God?
4. In Scripture, there are examples of God being the potter and His children the clay (Jeremiah 18, Isaiah 64:8). How does this metaphor help you submit your heart to God?
5. In Acts 17:11 it shows that the Jews in Berea were noble, and that they received Paul and Silas' message with eagerness, examining the Scripture to see if what Paul and Silas said was true. Why is it important that we search God's Word when we hear something new?
6. Maybe you have experienced someone who has been hard-hearted, like the Jews in Thessalonica? Someone at your workplace, in your family, or just a friend. Maybe they claim they are a Christian or maybe they do not. Should you continue to share Christ with them? Why or why not?
7. What may be the reason that our own hearts at times do not receive God's Word?

Next small group meets the week of March 5th