

WILD WEST Thessalonica

...but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles... (1 Cor 1:23)

Sharing the gospel can be intimidating – When they passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. (Acts 17:1)

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. (Romans 1:16)

The gospel can persuade – As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ,” he said. (17:2-3)

-He reasoned from scriptures

-He explained and proved

-He proclaimed

☞ Jesus is the Lamb = who had to die

☞ Jesus is the Lion = the king who comes again

Sharing the gospel will result in joyous conversion - Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women. (17:4-5)

Sharing the gospel will result in jealous opposition – But the Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason’s house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city officials, shouting: “These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, ⁷and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.” (17:5-7)

The world will reject you because of the gospel – When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. ⁹Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go. (17:8-9)

You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews...For we wanted to come to you-certainly I, Paul did, again and again-but Satan stopped us. (1 Thessalonians 2:14b, 18)

Application:

Which do you fear more, failing God or offending people?

Do not substitute the offense of the gospel for being offensive.