



Persistent and Persuasive Proclamation

Acts 17:1-17

Main Idea: Proclaim Jesus persistently and persuasively, using the Scriptures to reason with those who are willing to search the Scriptures for the truth about Jesus.

Persistently proclaim Jesus, persisting in the mission even when you are rejected because the truth is rejected (2-3, 10-11, 16-17).

Paul and Silas set an example that was for the church today when it comes to living on mission to always share the Lord. They were faithful witnesses who kept their work in the mission simple: Make disciples of Jesus Christ by sharing the truth about Jesus Christ. However, while their method for the mission was simple, there was nothing simple about the work of the mission, and one of the realities of that work became clear in Acts 17: Always sharing the Lord requires persistence in the work of proclaiming the gospel. If Paul and Silas were anything in Acts 17, they were persistent. As they went from one location to another, they were persistent in sharing the gospel. From Thessalonica to Berea to Athens, they persistently proclaimed Jesus. In these locations, there were enough Jewish men to have a synagogue, so following the model of Jesus himself, they went there first to proclaim the truth that Jesus was the Christ. They didn't just go to the synagogue once, but they continued to faithfully and regularly go, establishing relationships and opening doors to the work of the gospel among those who needed Jesus. Their persistence was demonstrated in the face of persecution as well. From Thessalonica and even in Berea, the men faced rejection from those who rejected the truth about Jesus. This didn't discourage them to stop. It did force them to move on, but as they went, they persisted to stay on mission. Oh that the church would faithfully follow their example of missional faith! For you and me today, persistently proclaim Jesus, persisting in the mission even when you are rejected because the truth is rejected.

1. How does the command of Christ (Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:8) impact the persistence of a disciple of Christ in the work of the mission? Apply the answer personally. How does it affect your surrender and participation in the mission?
2. How were Paul and Silas persistent in proclaiming Jesus when they came to a new place or met someone new? What about you? Do you want people to know that you are a disciple of Jesus the first time you meet them? What are some things that keep people from doing this?
3. Day to day and week to week, Paul and Silas persisted in continuing to focus on telling others about Jesus. This included meeting with some of the same people over and over again. Why is this important? How could God use this to grow faith? How could you do more missional greeting and meeting new people as you go?
4. Even when persecution threatened them and made them flee to other locations, Paul and Silas persisted in the mission. Pray for each other and for missionaries who face similar challenges and persecution today, asking the Lord for strength to be persistent to proclaim Jesus!



Persuasively proclaim Jesus, examining the Scriptures to persuade others to believe that Jesus is the Christ (2-4, 10-12, 16-17).

In addition to persistence, there was another important element of the mission work of Paul and Silas that's instructive for us today. This other important element was persuasiveness. Paul and Silas were persuasive, which was a part of the very nature of their persistent work. They went back Sabbath after Sabbath, day after day in order to encourage those who would listen to examine the Scriptures to see the reality of the fulfillment of the Messiah in the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. They were teaching. Their work proclamation necessarily included instruction as they used the Old Testament promises and prophecies about the Messiah to relate how these things were all fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth. From Thessalonica to Berea to Athens, the Lord used their persuasive proclamation about Jesus to instruct hearts and to open minds to the truth of the person and the work of Jesus. From the Jews to the Gentiles, God used Paul and Silas to persuade sinners to turn from their sin and turn in faith to their Savior and Lord. On that the church would faithfully follow their example of missional faith! For you and me today, persuasively proclaim Jesus, examining the Scriptures to persuade others to believe that Jesus is the Christ.

1. How does the command of Christ (Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:8) impact the persuasiveness of a disciple of Christ in the work of the gospel? Apply the answer personally. How does it affect your desire to see others come to repentance and faith in Jesus?
2. How were Paul and Silas persuasive in proclaiming Jesus when they came to a new place or met someone new? What about you? Do you want people to know that Jesus is the Christ? What are some things that keep people from sharing their faith persuasively?
3. Day to day and week to week, Paul and Silas continued to tell others about Jesus, instructing them from Scripture to persuade them to believe. Why is this important? How could God use this to grow faith? Following the Acts 17 example, how can you be more persuasive as you share your faith?
4. Even when persecution threatened them and made them flee to other locations, Paul and Silas continued to persuade others to believe. Pray for each other and for missionaries who face similar challenges and persecution today, asking the Lord for grace to be persuasive in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus the Christ!