



## Life Group Study Notes

### “Reaching A City To Touch The World”

Ps. Brock Lillis - March 4, 2017

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- When was your earliest exposure to the Gospel about Jesus?
- How old were you when the Gospel first significantly impacted your life?
- How old were you when you first sensed the reality of the spiritual world?

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)

The Book of Acts 17:1-9 records the historical beginnings of the church in Thessalonica. In only three weeks the church was birthed through Paul’s preaching and the powerful working of the Holy Spirit. Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonian believers, partially quoted below, was written to encourage and instruct this young church.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 ESV *Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.*

*We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.*

*You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

The biblical texts regarding the Thessalonian church teach us the following:

## Non-Negotiables to Reach a City that Touches the World

### 1. We must be a praying people.

God's power was publicly manifested in response to the prayers of Paul and his team.

Jesus told his disciples that laborers were needed to reach souls with the Gospel. Therefore, he instructed them first of all to pray for laborers. The laborers must be called *and* sent by God with his burden. Human zeal is not enough.

### 2. We have to be a preaching people.

Paul preached as much as possible. He took full advantage of the opportunity to speak in the local synagogue. Yet we also know from Acts that he spoke of Jesus in many other settings as well. The early churches were known for spreading the Gospel throughout the cities and towns where they were located.

### 3. We have to be a power-filled people.

The Holy Spirit filled the apostles and the early churches with his presence and power. Consequently, they were filled with boldness and confidence. They were led by the Spirit and were empowered by the Spirit to speak boldly and to work with the Spirit to bring forth signs and wonders that served to confirm the truth of the Gospel.

Jesus himself promised the power of the Spirit to all who would follow him in obedience to bring the Gospel to others (Acts 1:8).

Jesus is calling us to spread the Gospel and to plant churches. Together we must be a praying people and a preaching people and a power-filled people. This is the only way we will see the fullness of what God wants to do through us come to pass. If we fail to be such a people, we will fall short of God's will and calling for our lives. It is not enough to be vocationally or academically or relationally fruitful in life, although God desires these things for us as well. God wants us to be missionally fruitful, too.

## **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- What can we practically do to be faithful to pray for laborers and for a harvest of souls?
- How can we create new opportunities to communicate the Gospel to more people?
- What do we need to do to be filled with God's power more frequently?

## **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Thank God for those who initially communicated the Gospel of Jesus to us.
- Ask God to train you how to become more effective in communicating the Gospel.
- Ask God to empower us and send us into the harvest fields all around us.