



ACTS

UNHINDERED

Acts 17:1-15

“UN-ASSUMING”



Acts 17:1-15

“UN-ASSUMING”

*All that is gold does not glitter
Not all those who wander are lost;
The old that is strong does not wither,
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.
From the ashes a fire shall be woken,
A light from the shadows shall spring;
Renewed shall be blade that was broken,
The crownless again shall be king.*

- quoted by Bilbo Baggins

*Do we appreciate the incredible power
at work in the simple Word?*

“UN-ASSUMING”

ACTS

1. Unassuming Explanation in Thessalonica – 1-9

“reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining ...”

2. Unassuming Examination in Berea – 10-15

“received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily...”

“UN-ASSUMING”

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1. Unassuming Explanation in Thessalonica – 1-9

“reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining ...”

Descriptive words of gospel mission:

“reasoned ... explaining ... proving ... persuaded”

Descriptive words of opposition:

“jealous ... rabble ... mob ... uproar ... attacked ... dragged ... shouting”

Dramatic effect of the simple truth: New Creation!

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“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”
– Romans 1:16

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“...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.” - 1Thess 1:5-8

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“our coming to you was not in vain. But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed-- God is witness.” - 1 Thess 2:1-5

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1. Unassuming Explanation in Thessalonica – 1-9

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Dramatic effect of the simple truth: New Creation!

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2. Unassuming Examination in Berea – 10-15

“received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily...”

Descriptive words of gospel reception:

“noble ... eagerness ... examining ... if these thing were so ... believed”

Descriptive words of opposition:

“agitating and stirring up the crowds”

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“Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God.”

- 2 Corinthians 4:1-2

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“For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. ... And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified ... and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

- 1 Corinthians 1:17, 2:1-5

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Descriptive words of gospel reception:

“noble ... eagerness ... examining ... if these thing were so ... believed”

Descriptive words of opposition:

“agitating and stirring up the crowds”

Dramatic effect of the simple growth: “therefore believed”

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“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

- Matthew 13:44-46

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“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? **Listen diligently to me**, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. **Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live** ... my word ... shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

- Isaiah 55:1-3, 11

