



**SERIES: ACTS - WHEN THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN**  
**MESSAGE TITLE: "THREE KINGS"**

**SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS**  
**DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020**

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

## BIBLICAL TEXT(S): *Acts 17:1-9*

In Acts chapter 17, Paul and the believers in the city of Thessalonica encounter an angry mob. Driven by jealousy, the Jews in that town partner with "the rabble" to riot against the Christians. They accuse them of supporting a king other than Caesar and demand justice to be done. Though their methods were unfair and they had ulterior motives, what their accusations were true.

The Christian faith does require our allegiance not to ourselves or to any other political leader, but to the one true king, Jesus.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. These can help your group understand and apply the teaching more profitably*

## LEAN IN

***These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. What's the best news you've received lately?
2. If you were king for a day, what would you do?
3. What is the most unlikely partnership you've seen (i.e., a couple, business partnership, best friends, etc., who are so different it's hard to imagine them getting along)?
4. What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week? What's one that you are dreading?

## LOOK DOWN

***These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. What message did Paul and Silas preach in the synagogues of Thessalonica? What was the result of their message?
2. How did some of the Jews feel about Paul and Silas and the success of their message? What did they do and whose help did they seek?
3. Who did the Jews grab? What charge did the Jews make against him?
4. How did the Jews describe the Christians in their accusations?
5. Were the charges that the Jews made against the Christians true? Were they fair? Why or why not?

*cont.*

## CONTINUED:

**LOOK OUT**

***These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. How have you seen the gospel presented to people in an appealing way? How have you seen it presented poorly or in a way that turns people away from God?
2. The Jews and the rabble were strange bedfellows, but they worked together in this story because they had the same objective. Have you seen any strange bedfellows in our world today or groups that have taken advantage of another's cause? What does this story teach you?
3. How have you seen people make themselves the king of their lives?
4. How have you seen people make their politics the king of their lives?
5. What positive examples have you seen (either in people you know or in history) of people who have made Jesus the king of their life?

**LOOK IN**

***These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. Have you ever presented the gospel to someone? How did it go? If not, what has kept you from doing so?
2. Have you ever been tempted to partner with someone or with a group whose goals/actions you didn't agree with, but could help you meet your own goals? What happened? How does this story encourage or challenge you?
3. Where are you tempted to make yourself the king of your life? How have you (or are you) tempted into self-absorption? How can or have you worked to prevent this?
4. Are you trusting (or have you trusted) in politics more than Jesus? Where are you tempted to do this? What can you do to align your heart to the gospel rather than political platforms, parties, or politicians?
5. In what areas of your life have you made great strides in making Jesus king? Where do you struggle to do this most right now?

**LIVE IT OUT**

***These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. Is there anyone in your life that God might be calling you to share the Gospel with? Spend some time praying for that person this week and maybe ask

*cont.*

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- your group to pray with you.
2. Are there places in your life where your trust and hope is in something other than Jesus? How can your group pray for and support you as you seek to allow him to be your king?
  3. In the midst of a heated election season, have your political views or support for a given candidate taken a bigger role in your life than they should? How can your group encourage you as you seek to trust in Jesus first and foremost?

*Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the Adult Discipleship Team for this week's notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes, which normally appear on the following page.*