



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Mission Adventure Series, Lesson 56

Lesson Title: The Berean Church

Take Home Point: Read the Bible every day.

Warm-Up:

Imagine you are offered the opportunity to accept a business position of considerable prestige, power, and potential wealth. You have weighed the impacts and consequences of your decision on your family and way of life. You have discussed it with your spouse. It seems something you cannot afford to pass up. But your future employer is fair and open with you: "There are some specific legal ramifications to your accepting this position. They are extremely important for you to understand. Here is the contract you must sign in order to become a member of our team." What do you do? Quickly skim over the contract and sign it? Or do you carefully read it and perhaps even get legal advice to ensure you know that what you are told is true?

Read: Acts 17:1-15

Observation (What happened?):

What did Paul use to explain and prove that Jesus was the Christ?

How did the Bereans respond differently than the Thessalonians to Paul's message?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think the reactionary Jews were so incensed at Paul's teaching and the response of people, both Jews and Greeks?

Why would the Bereans go back to their scriptures to verify Paul's message?

Insight:

What is the only way to truly understand God's revealed plan for restoring our relationship to him? It is the Bible, the word of God given to us for our spiritual rescue and benefit. It reveals to us our need for him; how to be born again by believing in Jesus as Savior; and the truth of spiritual warfare in which we are engaged. First, the entire Old Testament points to Jesus. Remember, that's all the scripture the Bereans had, and it's what Paul used to prove that Jesus was the Christ. The gospels and epistles display Jesus as Lord and Savior. Ephesians 6:10-18 and Matthew 4:1-11 provide a complete picture of our armor and weapons, including a description of how Jesus himself wielded the sword of the Spirit to resist Satan's temptations. Notice that in tempting Jesus, Satan misused scripture. We need to be familiar with the whole word of God so we know when it is being misused. God has given us *"everything we need for life and for godliness"* (2 Peter 1:3-4) – all we need to do is accept his gracious gifts!

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How often do you read your Bible? What habit do you have or need to develop?

Pray for the children in your small group to recognize the importance of scripture as God's written source of truth.

Lesson 56