



SENT ON MISSION

*Week 2 | Revival Meets Resistance | Teacher: Libin Abraham
Sermon Questions for 9.27.2026*

OPENER

Around the world today, 388 million Christians face high levels of persecution, nearly the size of the entire population of America. In the past year, more than 224,000 believers were forced from their homes (roughly the size of Frisco), and 4,849 were killed for their faith. Why is the message of Jesus met with so much resistance? Because there is no uncontested ground. The earth is not neutral, and the coming of Jesus is the announcement that the true King has come to liberate people from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God. On this Missions Sunday, we trace a pattern through the book of Acts: revival leads to resistance, but resistance never gets the final word.

READ

Acts 17:1-7; Acts 4:1-3, 23-31; Acts 16:16-24; Acts 19:17-29; Acts 28:30-31

MAIN POINTS

1. There Is No Uncontested Ground

Jesus did not announce a new religion or a new political order; he announced that the kingdom of God is at hand. In Thessalonica, the mob accused Paul and Silas of turning the world upside down by saying there is another king, Jesus. They misunderstood it as politics, but they accidentally grasped the heart of the gospel. The early church did not sell Jesus as a life coach. Their confession was Jesus is Lord, and if Jesus is Lord, then Caesar, culture, money, and our own desires are not.

2. Kingdom Advancement Means Kingdom Displacement

Jesus does not come to coexist with other lords in our lives. He drives out darkness to bring his light and drives out fear so love can reign. That is why spiritual warfare is real, not only for our partners in places like India, but here in America as well. The same adversary hates seeing people come under the loving rule of Jesus.

3. Revival Leads to Resistance

Throughout Acts, conversions are met with confrontations, miracles with arrests, and baptisms with beatings. Pentecost is followed by Peter and John's arrest. A slave girl set free in Philippi leads to a riot because her owners lost their profit. Revival in Ephesus, where people burned their books of magic, leads to two hours of shouting for Artemis because the idol-makers lost their customers. The gospel comforts the broken and confronts every rival throne. If nobody is ever disturbed by our Christianity, we may need to ask whether our Christianity is disturbing anything. We don't go looking for resistance or romanticize it, but we should expect it.

4. Pray for Bigger Courage, Not a Smaller Mission

When Peter and John were released and threatened never to speak of Jesus again, the church went straight to prayer. They did not deny the danger, and they did not ask God to remove their enemies or make the mission safer. They asked for boldness to keep speaking his word while he stretched out his hand to heal. If the resistance increases, God, increase our courage. Every

Christian is called into the mission of God, whether that means crossing the street to a neighbor, telling a friend what Jesus has done, opening your home, serving refugees, giving generously, or going to the nations. Missions Sunday is not about applauding missionaries; it is about all of us becoming a missionary people.

5. The Gospel Goes Forward Unhindered

Acts ends with Paul under house arrest in Rome, the center of the empire, yet proclaiming the kingdom of God with all boldness and without hindrance. Paul is confined, but the kingdom is not. Luke gives no neat conclusion because the story is still being written. We are living in the Acts age, and the mission continues from one generation, nation, and language to the next until all have heard.

ENGAGE WITH GOD IN A GROUP

- The early church's leading confession was not that Jesus improves our lives but that Jesus is Lord. Why do you think it is tempting to present Jesus as a life coach rather than a King?
- In Philippi and Ephesus, resistance came from people whose income depended on darkness. Where do you see the gospel confronting things our culture profits from today?
- The church in Acts 4 prayed for boldness rather than safety. Read Acts 4:29-30. What would it look like for you to pray that way about a situation you are facing?
- Have you allowed the possibility of resistance to keep you from obedience and trust? What is one step of mission (a neighbor, a friend, an invitation, a generous gift, a trip) that God may be asking you to take this week?

BOTTOM LINE

There is no uncontested ground, so when resistance rises, we pray for bigger courage rather than a smaller mission, trusting that Jesus is still moving his gospel forward with all boldness and without hindrance.