

Disciples Like Jason

Tucked away in a few verses of Acts 17 is the mention of a disciple by the name of Jason. We know nothing about this man's background, occupation, or personal connection with any of the apostles. Yet in a few short verses of Acts 17 his actions have a lasting impact and bear an eternal reminder of the type of disciples God needs.

"But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus." And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go." (Acts 17:5-9)

Jason was recognized as a Christian. The unbelieving Jews are looking for Paul and Silas. They have stirred up the entire city because of their anger and disbelief and they want someone to bring before the rulers of the city. They are unable to find the apostle and his companion so they settle for some others who are known to be Christians, and prominent among these is Jason. He has not hidden his Christianity, he is not afraid of his beliefs or of others knowing who he follows and where he stands. The indication from the text is that these unbelieving Jews did not have to go door-to-door through the city searching for Christians; they knew exactly where to find Jason and others in Thessalonica.

Jason was given to hospitality. Among the accusations that are brought before the rulers of the city is the fact that Jason has received into his home these preachers of the Gospel and housed them during their time in Thessalonica (Vs. 7). When they originally came to Jason's house, it was because they desired Paul and Silas, not Jason himself. It is possible Jason could have spared himself a great deal of grief if he had simply asked Paul and Silas to find other accommodations, but such does not appear to have been Jason's nature. As a Christian, he opens his home to Paul and Silas even though it meant having men assault his house in their anger at the preaching of the truth.

Jason remained godly in the face of turbulence. There are two things that stick out in my mind reading the account of Jason. He never denies that Paul and Silas were staying with him, nor does he deny his faith in Christ. There would have been many, given the pressure of the mob and the local authorities who would have sought to save their own skin and let Paul and Silas deal with it – but not Jason. He also handles himself correctly before the government. There is no sign of rebellion or insolence from Jason, but he pays his bond (security - NKJV) and handles the situation correctly. It would have been easy for Jason to compromise his faithfulness with anger and rashness in response to his treatment, but his actions are impeccable.

We need more disciples like Jason. ~~ Adam Cozort