



## **Things Shake Up in Thessalonica:**

Seeing the world through the lens of love

### **Acts 17:5–9 (NRSV)**

<sup>5</sup> But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house. <sup>6</sup> When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting, "These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, <sup>7</sup> and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus." <sup>8</sup> The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, <sup>9</sup> and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

A love informed by the gospel disrupts the \_\_\_\_\_.

### **I Thessalonians 1:4–10 (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. <sup>7</sup> And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. <sup>8</sup> The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, <sup>9</sup> for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

## **The Strife in Athens:**

Love ain't another golden calf

*Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.*

Acts 17:29–31 (NRSV)

\_\_\_\_\_ a love rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ  
is \_\_\_\_\_ the transformative love of a living God.

## **Misguided Devotion:**

A love redirected in Corinth

*Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are...*

I Corinthians 1:26–28 (NRSV)

The gospel, in love, creates room for

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Think About It**

When has loving as Christ loved invited you to challenge  
the current state of things in our world?

What constitutes a relationship genuinely rooted in Christian love?

Where does a desire to love what God loves  
become most challenging for you?