

Sermon Notes / Discussion Questions

Making Him Known

Acts 17:16-34

September 12 & 13, 2020

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Have you ever been distressed by the spiritual state of the people around you? What was the situation, and how did you feel?

Where are the places around you where you think people might be open to discussing the ideas in the Gospel message? Where are some places or times that you felt people were definitely NOT open to discussing it?

Read the first half of Acts 17 (verses 1 -15) that precedes Paul's time in Athens. How was Paul's presentation of the Gospel different at the Aeropagus than in Athens? What are the implications of those differences in presentation for how we share the Gospel with different groups of people?

How do you think God is able to love people so fully who sin so deeply against Him (for example, by worshiping idols)? How can we further develop that kind of love as Christians who reflect God's character?

As a Christian, is it a struggle for you to maintain relationships with friends who are not believers (i.e., are almost all of your friends Christians)? What are some ways that we can intentionally cultivate relationships with those who are not Christians?

How much do you relate to the non-believers in your sphere? How much do you understand their "language" – the things they value, fear, love, ponder, and what makes them tick? Have you ever thought about how to connect those things with communicating the Gospel?

Have you ever been involved in a funny (or serious) conversation where the message that someone was trying to communicate was just not being understood correctly... maybe followed by an "Oh – that's that you mean!" moment?

The Athenian culture was devoted to the worship of its idols, and Paul saw that as both a stumbling block and an opportunity for the Gospel. What are the things that our culture is devoted to, and how can those be both stumbling blocks and opportunities?

Which parts of the Gospel message are you most tempted to compromise on when you share it with people – where does it get uncomfortable? Are you surprised that Paul was as direct as he was about the parts of the Gospel that were counter to what Athenians generally believed?