

SENT series
Week 5 outline
6.19.22
Acts 17:16-34

HOW A MESSAGE BECAME A MOVEMENT Meeting People Where They Are

I. **All Alone in Athens** (vs 16-21)

What Do We See Going On In This Account?

- A. Athens. -Once a city of action, now a city in decline, and a city full of idols
- B. The Epicureans -The "gods" are distant, so enjoy life because we die soon!
- C. The Stoics. -"god" is found in everything so be good and dutiful!
- D. The Areopagus -"Hill of Ares", the greek god of War.

II. **On Mission at Mars Hill** (vs 22-32)

What Do We Learn About God?

- A. God isn't made, he's the maker and God guides history
- B. God made man in such a way that man instinctively longs for God
- C. God has made Himself known through Jesus who shows us the full light of God
- D. The day of judgment is coming
 - life is neither a progress to extinction (Epicureans)
 - nor a pathway to absorption (Stoics)
- E. The proof of Christ's divinity and preeminence is the resurrection
 - now it's not an unknown God we worship, but a risen Christ, with whom we deal

III. **Connect, Converse, Contextualize**

What Do We Learn About Ourselves and How Do We Communicate the Gospel to People most UNLIKE US?

A. Vs 16... *"While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols."*

1. Paul Saw
2. Paul Recognized
3. Paul was "Greatly Distressed"

- SEE THE NEED: We stay aware (both self-aware, and aware of others around us)
 - *Do I see the lostness of my city or have I become blind to it?
- SEEK TO UNDERSTAND: We stay curious, asking questions and seeking to better understand where people are coming from, what they're going through, and what they're passionate about

*Am I genuinely concerned for others
or more concerned about what they think of me?

- BE SINCERE: We stay genuine and ask God to soften our hearts for those we are most tempted to alienate or ostracize.

*Do I have a soft heart or hard heart towards those unlike me?
- Who am I praying for?

B. vs 17-18... *"So he reasoned in the synagogue...as well as in the marketplace...
because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection"*

1. Paul was Present
2. Paul Preached Jesus

- SHOW UP: We stay present, resisting the temptation to wall off society and instead go as ministers in the marketplace

*Do I know my neighbor's names?
Do we model missional community with our children and families?

- STAY ON MESSAGE: We stay focused on the Gospel
*Do people associate me with good news
and resurrection life when I walk into the room?

C. vs 22-23 *"People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For
as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship"*

1. Paul contextualized the message: to God-fearers in the synagogue he used Scripture,
to intellectuals on Mar's Hill he used reason

- LEAD STRATEGICALLY : We stay connected, finding common ground and
communicate in ways people can understand
*How can I use what's happening around me to help illustrate Jesus?

D. vs 32-34 *"some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this
subject.... Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed."*

1. Paul knew his why: His identity wasn't in people's acceptance. Some sneered, some
wanted more information, and some accepted and believed

- BE SURE OF THE WHY: We stay confident in who we are and what we do is fulfilled
in Christ.

*Is my identity grounded in Jesus and who he says I am, or am I overly
concerned with what others think about me?