

Sharing Jesus in Unlikely Places

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Text: Acts 17:16-34

'Then Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus and said . . .'
(v. 22a)

Background:

A productive short ministry in Thessalonica.

A particularly startling moment for the new believers.

A powerful scriptural ministry in Berea.

Then, God providentially brought Paul to Athens.

What was Paul's approach?

Personal

He allowed what he saw to impact him deeply. (v. 16)

Practical

He spoke in the synagogue and the marketplace about his faith. (v. 17)

What was his method? (vs. 18-31)

1. He considered the context.

There were the philosophers.

There was the Areopagus.

There was continued interest in anything new.

2. He considered the culture.

He noted they were extremely religious. (v. 22)

3. He never compromised on the message.

He found a springboard and told them about Jesus.

4. He was confident, clear, and concise.

He spoke of creation. (v. 24)

He spoke of God's sufficiency. (v. 25)

He spoke of God's sovereignty. (v. 26)

5. He was compelling. (v. 27)

6. He was contextual.

Quoted one of their poets. He was well read.

7. He spoke for commitment.

God now commands all people everywhere to repent.

Warned them of coming judgment.

Preached Jesus and his death and resurrection!

What were the results?

Some laughed.

' . . . some began to ridicule him . . .' (v. 32)

Some listened.

' . . . we will hear you about this again' (v. 32)

Some lived.

'However, some . . . believed . . .' (v. 34)

All Scripture verses are from the Holman Christian Standard Bible unless otherwise noted

Life Group Questions:

1. What are some unlikely places where you have found yourself sharing Jesus, or realize now you should have?
2. What can we learn from Paul's approach at Athens?
3. What is your greatest hindrance to sharing Jesus with others?
4. Where has God placed you that you now realize is an appointed time and place/
5. How well prepared are you to share Jesus and what can you/should you do about that?