

We are privileged but are we provoked, convinced but are we concerned, loved but will we love?

Speak of Jesus
Acts 17:16-34
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Questions for discussion and application

- What stands out to you in Acts 17:16-34? Why?
- What did Paul SEE while in Athens? How did it affect him? What was his response?
- How are the Epicureans and Stoic beliefs a lot like the predominant worldviews of our day?
- Why is it important to be able to engage pluralistic and relativistic thought? What is the best approach to engaging someone with another worldview?
- When given the opportunity to speak at the Areopagus what does Paul say about God?
- Paul begins with God as Creator and ends with Him as Judge. How important is it for us to have “markers” or key events in our minds when communicating the storyline of Scripture (The Gospel of Jesus)? How can we grow in this?
- How can you begin to tell The Story of God in a form that makes sense to your culture? Name some ways to start.
- When we speak of Jesus we often speak of the cross but do we talk about the resurrection and the fact that He will judge all? Why is that important?
- What was the response to Paul’s message? How might this response encourage you?

1. Before we speak we have to first see and feel (Acts 17:16-23)

You don’t have to look far to find skeptics in your life.

- A science buff who says evolution disproves the Bible.
- A friend who rejects God because her father abused her.
- A family member who doesn’t believe in God because, “*He didn’t answer my prayers.*”
- A co-worker who says, “*Nothing exists beyond what we can see.*”
- A teacher who boasts that all religions lead to and promote virtually the same thing.
- A neighbor who “*struggles with a god who would allow evil to take place.*”

People are still setting up an idol to an “unknown god” all the time
- “I believe in a higher power, something greater than me.”

2. Speak truth about God and man in a way others will understand - without compromising the Biblical story (Acts 17:24-31)

Don't assume the people you speak with understand the God of the Bible. They might be thinking about something altogether different when you speak of “God.”

God (the true God) is personal and *can be known* but it has to be on his terms = through faith and repentance.

3. Speak of Jesus and the resurrection (Acts 17:31-34)

The biblical story begins with God as Creator and ends with God as judge – and so does Paul's defense.

This city (your workplace, school, neighborhood) is your “Mars Hill.”

You have the privilege to speak into the cynicism and skepticism, the superstition, in the face of relativism and idolatry, fear and doubt – the truth about Jesus.