

JUMP RIGHT IN: Read **ACTS 17:16-20** and talk about the following...

What were the **3** places Paul was sharing the Good News of Jesus?

ANSWER: Synagogue (church). Marketplace (work). And at Mars Hill (Community)

How was Paul usually received by his listeners?

ANSWER: Many believed. Some opposed (vigorously). And some wanted to hear more.

When was the last time you engaged in a spiritual conversation with someone that was not at church or in a Journey Group?

ACTS 17:18 says...

¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbling wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

Why do you think this message to so many a foreign one?

How do we share the Good News of Jesus? When we look at Paul's interaction we are shown a great example of the way we can engage with others on this level.

- **Understand the CONTEXT** – *Contextualization* is when you find a point of **contact** in order to expose the **conflict** for the purpose of introducing people to the **solution** which is JESUS.

John Stott said, "Wherever we begin we shall end with Jesus Christ who is Himself the good news, and who alone can fulfill all human aspirations.

(Wherever we start with how we share Jesus --> we we must end up at Jesus)

- **Be COMPREHENSIVE** – The Gospel is the **Good News** of a **RIGHTEOUS** God who demands **JUSTICE** but is also full of **MERCY**.
Its the true story of the whole world culminating in the reign of Jesus

READ **ACTS 17:21-31**

Look how Paul summarizes the GOSPEL...

God is the Creator of ALL things... And this **Creator does not dwell in Shrines...** This **GOD does not need our help.** Yet God **created all nations to seek and find Him!** And... **He is NOT far from you!**

Help People Understand that eternity is NOT an open-ended future.
And that you will give an **ACCOUNT** for your life!

- **Have COMPASSIONATE COURAGE** – You will need **COURAGE** because you ARE guaranteed ONE of these responses when you share...
 - Some will BELIEVE
 - Some will MOCK
 - Some WANT to hear more

You will need **COMPASSION** because people's lives depend on it!

- God will JUDGE people based on His RIGHTEOUSNESS.
- And He is JUST enough to follow through on that promise
- Yet, He is full of MERCY to give us GRACE we don't deserve.

Paul's message to the philosophers on Mars Hill that day ended with a call to repentance and acceptance of the two fundamental truths of Scripture that Paul was committed to preaching...

– the crucifixion and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul preached Christ crucified to them as he always did wherever he went

1 Corinthians 2:2 says...

For I decided to know nothing among you except
Jesus Christ and him crucified.

As you close your time in JOURNEY GROUP this week, talk with one another about how you will look for opportunities to share the Gospel in your marketplace or community contexts.

How will you better prepare yourself to be able to communicate a more comprehensive view of the story of God?

Are you ready to speak the name of Jesus and prepared for whatever response you will receive?

PRAY as a group!!!!