



The Book of Acts:

Holy Spirit Adventures

Passage: Acts 17

The Book of Acts - A call to see the Spirit move again and again in every generation

Introduction

Enjoy the Table Talk video with Pastor Angela [here](#).

Pastor Jon notes that *"the Divine thumbprint is in the Creation Order, the DNA of human existence. God is a Creator, a God of order, an artist. He is a moral God. From the fine-tuning and order of the universe to all cultures having a shared untaught moral code, God's invisible qualities are clearly shown and He is not far from any one of us."*

> As a group discuss this rich and complex truth.

Unpacking the Sermon

1. Acts 17: 16-18 "While Paul was in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols... day after day, he preached and debated with the philosophers and greatest thinkers"

Paul's heart is broken and he is deeply disturbed by the idols that represent human pride, the shadow of Babel, and the presence of the demonic. Yet he shows restraint, respect, and works hard to find common ground so he can point people to Jesus.

> Discuss Paul's perseverance and commitment to preach the Good News about Jesus and the resurrection to an unbelieving crowd of pagans, Greeks, and Romans. What do you think he faced?

2. Acts 17: 19-23 "You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears"

Pastor Jon notes that "Paul starts his classic two-part dance, first pointing them to the only true God...not demons, nor idols. He then begins preaching about Jesus, who is the Messiah, physically resurrected from the dead."

> Picture yourself growing up in Athens, where many Greco-Roman gods were worshiped, and where nobody believed in physical resurrection. What would you have thought of these “strange ideas” that Paul was preaching? How would you have reacted to this stranger?

3. Acts 17: 24-28 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands nor is served by human hands...from one man He made every nation of men...”

Paul maintains that God is sovereign, God made humanity (starting with Adam), and that only He is in charge and in control. These views are shocking and in complete contradiction to the various Greco-Roman belief systems of the time.

> Do you see history repeating itself in our modern-day world where Christian beliefs are viewed as shocking and contradictory to the secular world? How do you go about sharing the Gospel under these hostile circumstances?

4. Romans 1:16 “I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes; first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

>How can we become more like Paul, putting our faith out there for all to see?

APPLICATION

Pastor Jon opened his sermon with a fact about the funeral of former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev. In the citadel of secular, atheistic power, his wife performed an act of great courage and hope by making the sign of the cross on her husband’s chest.

>How can we perform acts of Christian courage in our daily lives? How can we help penetrate the secular, atheistic power in our world?

CLOSING PRAYER

God of Heaven and Earth, your truths are timeless and unshakable. Paul encountered resistance to them back in Jesus’ time and we continue to encounter resistance today. Make us courageous Christians like Paul. Help us to spread the Good News of the Gospel to the unsaved and those with different beliefs. Help us to remember that God is our Creator, our Author, and our Savior through Jesus, our Messiah. Amen

Have questions about the sermon? Email us: groups@sanctuschurch.com