

The
book
of

ACTS

17:16-18:17

the Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost
When the day of Pentecost came
suddenly a sound like



Second Mission: 16:1 - 18:22
Asia & Macedonia/Greece

Trials & Joys of Ministry

Paul's 2nd Mission Joys

16:1-4 / Raising Young Leaders

16:5 / Church Grew Daily

16:11-15 / Divine Appointments


16:25 / Rejoicing in Suffering

Paul's 2nd Mission Joys

16:26-34 / Miraculous Moments

16:35-40 / Worldly Vindication

17:10-15 / Truth Seekers



Paul's 2nd Mission Trials

15:36-41 / Interpersonal Issues

16:6-10 / Vision & Direction

16:16-18/ Public Relations

16:19-24/ Persecution

Paul's 2nd Mission Trials

17:1-9 / Ministry Envy/Jealousy



17:16-34 / Apathy & Indifference



Athens:

- ▶ **Center of Ed., Art, philosophy, etc - philosophers like Socrates, Plato & Aristotle originated here**
- ▶ **V.22 “Very Religious” - Possibly 5,000 shrines, 30,000 idols?**
- ▶ **“Unknown god” - sheep turned loose in the streets, then sacrificed by gods where they laid down**

Epicureans:

- ▶ **Materialistic not into superstitious, irrational belief in gods**
- ▶ **Everything happens by chance & if there are gods they don't care**
- ▶ **“All in” for pursuit of pleasure today because tomorrow we die!**
- ▶ **Truth comes by experience**

Stoics:

- ▶ **Stress unity of mankind along with the gods & duty to them**
- ▶ **Pantheistic = everything is god**
- ▶ **Everything happens by the will of the gods or destiny - don't resent it**
- ▶ **World = revolving circle of events, you die & are absorbed**
- ▶ **Reason & self sufficiency are the goal in life**

Stoics:

- ▶ **Reason & self sufficiency are the goal in life**
- ▶ **You must learn to restrain the flesh**

17:16-34 / Apathy & Indifference

- ✱ **Athens was declining rapidly - morally, physically, in influence, etc**
- ✱ **Key v. 21**
- ✱ **Their apathy lead to their extreme idolatry = indifferent toward any new belief system**
- ✱ **Paul likely seeing the same things in the synagogue & the market place**

“14 But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the Lord their God. 15 They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their fathers and the warnings he had given them. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless. They imitated the nations around them although the Lord had ordered them, “Do not do as they do,” and they did the things the Lord had forbidden them to do.”

~ 2 Kings 17:14-17 | NIV84

“16 They forsook all the commands of the Lord their God and made for themselves two idols cast in the shape of calves, and an Asherah pole. They bowed down to all the starry hosts, and they worshiped Baal. 17 They sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire. They practiced divination and sorcery and sold themselves to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, provoking him to anger.”

~ 2 Kings 17:14-17 | NIV84

Romans

1:18-32

Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from come a witness with us of his resurrection.”

23 So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas, which of these two you have chosen 25 to take the place of Judas left to go where he went.” 26 Then they cast lots; so he was accepted to be the eleventh apostle.

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost came suddenly a sound like the rushing of a mighty wind

17:16-34 / Apathy & Indifference

- ✱ **Need to learn to be so sure of the truth of God's Word that we can be OK with being called a "babbler"... "hater"...etc**
- ✱ **Areopagus(Hill of Ares) = 30 member court, senate & school board of higher Ed. wrapped into one group**
- ✱ **You will hear this called the "Mars Hill" (Hill of Ares) sermon or message**
 - ▶ **Touted as one of best messages**

Mars Hill Message:

- ▶ **God = created everything we see, including humanity**
- ▶ **Himself not created or made up**
- ▶ **God wants to be in relationship(not coerced) as family**
- ▶ **He is going to judge the world - deal with injustice**
- ▶ **Proof = Resurrection**

17:16-34 / Apathy & Indifference

- ✱ **This message fell flat & I am sure didn't have the effect Paul was hoping for why?**
 - ▶ **Not as bold? Trying to be relatable? didn't use the Word of God, the name of Jesus, the cross?**
 - ▶ **Their education & apathy - one of the hardest groups to share the gospel with = Americans**

1 Corinthians

1:18 — 2:5

“Those who cling to
worthless idols forfeit the
grace that could be theirs.”

~ **Jonah 2:8 | NIV84**