

## Beautiful Feet: What Is This Babblers Trying to Say?

### Growth Group Discussion

Acts 17:16-34

#### Opening Questions (get everyone involved in discussion):

- Begin with prayer. Take at least 30 seconds to be silent, clearing your minds of distractions and preparing to hear from God's word.
- TK Kennedy spoke about how Joshua's generation forgot to share God's law with their children. They "forgot to hand the baton off." Who first spoke the Gospel to you? Who have you been trying to speak the Gospel to?

#### 1. READ Acts 17:16-34 and discuss:

- Paul begins in verse 16 by noting that his spirit was *provoked* within him as he saw all the idols in the city.
  - What idols do you see presently in your community preventing people from coming to Christ?
  - Which, if any, idols provoke you?
  - How does idolatry impact our daily walk with Christ?
    - (If comfortable – leader can share an example of this to illustrate.)
- In Acts 17:18, the Epicureans, who believed that the greatest good in life is to seek natural pleasure and minimize pain, and, the Stoics, who viewed seeking virtuous behavior was the way, both look at Paul and say..." What does this babblers wish to say? He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities—because of Jesus and the Resurrection." (v.18-19)
  - What aspects of our present society are similar to Epicurean thought?
    - How do those aspects make the Gospel unattractive/foreign?
  - In contrast to Epicureans, Stoics believed seeking virtuous behavior was the way forward. As a result, many stoics viewed suffering as a result of life on Earth and sought to show outward strength in suffering.
    - Why would a Stoic hear the Gospel and find it confusing?
- TK Kennedy mentioned that in ministering to students, many students today do not know the concept of universal truth. He said that teens are taught that personal interpretation trumps original authorial intent.
  - Do you see places in our world where universal truth is being denied?
    - What are the implications for a society's longevity if no one can agree on truth?
  - Do you believe that personal interpretation of Scripture trumps the biblical author's original intent? Why or why not?
  - How can 3VC get stronger at helping people in our church become better Bible readers?
- What can Paul's example in Athens teach us about reaching people today for Christ?

- 3VC is blessed to have access to people with many different cultures and beliefs. How should we treat people with different cultures and beliefs?
  - Could you share the Gospel with someone without quoting the Bible in a culturally relevant way?
    - How would you do it?
  - Read Acts 17:24-31. Paul paints many great pictures of God to the crowd.
    - Take some time to list just how many you see.
    - Have everyone take one of these pictures of God and share how Christ fulfills these roles in their lives. (i.e., there are 6 roles – Creator, Provider, Sustainer, Ruler, Judge and Father)
  - People today want their point of view to be heard. Paul gained a hearing in the Areopagus by taking the Gospel and speaking it in the Athenian language.
    - How might you gain a hearing with someone you don't know how to reach them with the message of Jesus?
    - Think about the Gospel. What aspect of the Gospel message is most needed today and what aspect of the Gospel message is most likely to be rejected today?
2. TK Kennedy's big idea of his message was: ***The Love of Christ compels us to take the Gospel to different people and places. (2 Cor 5:14-15)***
- TK Kennedy said that he has been going to get Diet Coke for three years from the same lady at the store. He said that he has been working to "earn the right to speak the Gospel."
    - How has the Love of Christ compelled you to make ordinary routines such as coffee breaks, walks at lunch break opportunities for Gospel ministry?
    - How can you make ordinary routines opportunities for Gospel ministry?
  - TK Kennedy talked how the church is to be the salt and light of the earth. He said "if we don't look and love different, we aren't spreading the salt of Christ and we aren't making people thirsty." Read Matthew 5:13-16.
    - What help do you need from God or others to grow being salty and shining the light of Christ to a dark world?
    - How is 3VC succeeding in being salt and light to Long Island?
    - What areas can they grow in to increase their witness to the community?
  - In Acts 17:32, the results of Paul's gospel presentation are written: "Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, we will hear you again about this. So, Paul went out from their midst. But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them."
    - There are three responses – those who mocked, those who wanted to hear more and those who believed and joined the mission of God.

- Does seeing these responses to Paul comfort you in any anxiety you may have in sharing the Gospel?
- What does this ultimately say about salvation?

**PRAYER:**

Pray for someone in your life who has mocked the Gospel of Christ and someone who is interested to hear more.

Take time also to share about and pray for any other needs that exist in your group.