

GOD IS ALWAYS AT WORK
IN THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE

ACTS 17:16-34

Week 1 December 27, 2020

Pastor Mike Popovich

We must think like a Christian.

If you want to share Jesus with the world...

YOU MUST LET THE WORLD PROVOKE YOUR SPIRIT

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was beholding the city full of idols. So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present.

Acts 17:16-17 NAS

Paul began in the synagogues reasoning with Jews and God-fearing Gentiles.

He also had an encounter with some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. Their reaction, when he told them about Jesus and his resurrection, was, "He's a dreamer," or, "He's pushing some foreign religion."

¹⁹ But they invited him to the forum at Mars Hill. "Come and tell us more about this new religion," they said.

Acts 17:18-19

YOU HAVE TO CONNECT THE GOSPEL TO THEIR LIVES

So Paul, standing before them at the Mars Hill forum, addressed them as follows: "Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious ²³for as I was out walking I saw your many altars, and one of them had this inscription on it--'To the Unknown God.' You have been worshiping him without knowing who he is, and now I wish to tell you about him."

Acts 17:22-23 NIV

The Story of the Unknown God

TELL THEM GOD IS GOD AND HE WILL BE THEIR JUDGE

²⁴ 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...³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

Acts 17:24, 30-31 NIV

But God had prepared some of their hearts.

NOT ALL WILL ACCEPT THE MESSAGE - BUT SOME WILL

A few men became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

Acts 17:34 LIV

Most of them had already decided God, any god, could not raise a man from the dead. Therefore, they would not receive salvation.

What assumptions have you made in life that God cannot do?

**For the truth about God is known to them instinctively;
God has put this knowledge in their hearts.**

Romans 1:19 LIV

Pray for your neighbors.

Look for God to put you in the right place in the right time.