



Paul's Approach with People

Acts 17:16-34

How did Paul talk with people?

- 1 Corinthians 9:19-22 I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.
- Acts 17:1-3 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures,
3 explaining that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.”
- Acts 17:16-17 Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.
 - “Dialegomai” – to dialogue, talk with, reason, dispute

What Paul saw in Athens..

- Acts 17:16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.
 - He was bothered by the sin..
 - He cared about the people..
 - John 3:16; Matt 22:35-40
 - Genesis 1:26-27; Matt 16:26

He listened to their beliefs..

- Acts 17:18-21 Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, “What does this babbler want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,” because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.
 - Idols – religious superstition (Acts 14:14-17)
 - Epicureans – pleasure lovers
 - Stoics – fate controls life
 - We need to sympathize (Heb 4:14-15)

He started with common ground..

- Acts 17:18-21 Then Paul stood in the midst of the [\[i\]](#)Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; ²³ for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:
 - Complimentary... You’re religious – so am I
 - Don’t talk down.. Phil 2:3-5; Romans 3:23

He said what needed to be said..

- Acts 17:23 What you worship as unknown I proclaim to you..
- 17:24-25 God is the maker of all things (Creation account); does not live in temples made by hands
- 17:25-27 All nations of one blood; God is near and desires us to seek Him
- 17:28-29 God and man are related (His offspring..)
- 17:30-31 Abandon your ignorant rituals and repent.. God raised His Son; day of judgment is appointed (Jesus is the solution)

The Reaction was mixed..

- Acts 17:32-34 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, “We will hear you again on this *matter*.” ³³ So Paul departed from among them.
³⁴ However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.
 - Plant the seed..God will give the increase (1 Cor 3:6)
 - Let your light shine.. (Matt 5:16)



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