

Sermon Discussion – 22 October 2023

Read Acts 17:16-21

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

Have you ever had an experience or trip where an initial excitement turned into frustration or doubt? How did you handle it, and what did you learn from that experience?

Observation *Discovering the context*

The people of the ancient world worshipped many kinds of gods, as seen in our text. While most of us no longer worship statues in temples, we still worship and serve things...basically making idols of our own.

- What do you think are the chief false gods or idols of our culture?
- Why do we find those so appealing? Which ones are you most drawn to and why?

Interpretation *Discovering the meaning*

1. The sermon emphasises the idea that making disciples changes our direction, pushing us out into the "marketplace" of our lives. In your context, where is your "marketplace" for sharing your faith? How can you be more intentional about it?
2. The concept of love is explored, highlighting that it involves both sweet feelings and thunderous feelings. How do you balance these emotions in your own relationships, especially when you see someone you care about making poor choices?
3. Reflect on the idea that the cross is the intersection of God's holiness and love. How does this perspective reshape your understanding of God's character and His relationship with humanity?
4. Take a moment to reflect on your current collection of idols, whether they be career, relationships, image, or other aspects. How can you redirect your focus toward God, recognising that true fulfilment comes from Him?
5. In what ways has the gospel changed the way you approach your work, relationships, and daily activities? Can you share a specific example of how your faith has influenced your actions or decisions?

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

- How does the mission of "Love God, Love People, and Make Disciples" align with the themes discussed in this sermon? How can this mission be applied in practical ways in your life?
- Try memorising Acts 17:16...
"Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols."
- How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?