

Title: PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL
Text: ACTS 17:16-34

Teacher: NATHAN MILLER

Multiplying Flourishing Congregations

Paul's Faithful Presence

- Preaching at the Areopagus
- The Response of the Athenians

Our Faithful Presence

- Know the Good News
- Love the Good News
- Share the Good News

CONVERSATION STARTER

- What is something you enjoy talking about? Why do you get excited when you talk about it? Have you ever tried to persuade someone to share in your excitement? Have you ever been persuaded by someone else's excitement? What were they excited about?
- Read Acts 17:16-21. What was Paul's motivation for reasoning in the synagogue and marketplace? What was the response of those who heard him? Why did they react that way? Why do you think those listening to Paul spent all their time listening to new ideas? How do you think this affected the way they responded to Paul's message?
- Read Acts 17:22-34. How might Paul's teaching have challenged the Athenians? Why was it important that Paul understand their culture? How did he use this understanding to introduce the gospel? Based on what Paul said, why might the people have responded in the ways they did?
- Read the excerpt below. Do you agree with Stott that the reason "the church slumbers" is that we do not feel as Paul felt? Why or why not? What do you think Stott means by "holy indignation"? How might "holy indignation" go right, and how might it go wrong?
- What do we see in the culture around us that could be used as a bridge to connect the gospel to people? How are you cultivating a love for the good news? How has Christ Community helped equip you in your proclamation of the gospel?

EXCERPT FROM: *The Message of Acts*

BY: John Stott

It is not only the comprehensiveness of Paul's message in Athens which is impressive...but also the depth and power of his motivation. Why is it that, in spite of the great needs and opportunities of our day, the church slumbers peacefully on? I think the major reason is this: we do not speak as Paul spoke because we do not feel as Paul felt. We have never had the...indignation which he had. Divine jealousy has not stirred within us. We constantly pray 'Hallowed be your Name', but we do not seem to mean it, or to care that his Name is so widely profaned.

Why is this? It takes us a stage further back. If we do not speak like Paul because we do not feel like Paul, this is because we do not see like Paul. That was the order: he saw, he felt, he spoke. It all began with his eyes...he looked and looked, and thought and thought, until the fires of holy indignation were kindled within him. For he saw men and women, created by God in the image of God, giving to idols the homage which was due to him alone.