



## The Message and Method of the Church

### More Creative than We Know

July 29, 2018

#### Sharing Jesus With “[Very Religious](#)” People (Acts 17:1-9)

Acts 17:2-5

<sup>2</sup>As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said. <sup>4</sup> Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

<sup>5</sup> But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason’s house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd.

#### Some Simple Lessons:

- Look for spiritual interest and curiosity (v.1)
- Consistent conversations are key (v.2)
- Use your mind... be reasonable (v.2)
- The biblical story of Jesús is powerful! (v.2-3)
- Some will be very open... some very closed (v.2-3)

#### Sharing Jesus in the “[Market Place](#)” (Acts 17:16-19)

Acts 17:16-18

<sup>16</sup> While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate

with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

### **Some Simple Lessons:**

- The in-between times of life can be open doors for the gospel! (v.16)
- Noticing the culture and norms helps in the outreach process (v.16)
- Emotion is a powerful motivator! (v.16)
- Any location is a good location...with wisdom (v.16-17)
- Many people are open to talk, even if they have strong opinions and don't get what you are saying right away (v.18)
- Stay focused on the good news of Jesus (Gospel) (v.18)

### **Sharing Jesus in the "[Academy and Cultural Centers](#)" (Acts 17:19-34)**

Acts 17:24-28

<sup>16</sup> "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 human hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

### **Some Simple Lessons:**

- Curiosity is powerful! (v.19-21)
- Pay attention and affirm what you can (v.22-23)
- Speak to the longing of the heart (v.23)
- Paint a picture of the God we worship (v.24-27)
- Speak common cultural language (v.28)
- Give a bigger picture of God (v.29)
- Invite people to real life change (v.30)
- Keep Jesus in the center of everything! (v.31)
- Be ready for a variety of responses...including faith in Jesus (v.32-34)