

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 10th July

sunnysidechurch

Lessons from Athens: The Good News About God

Bible passage Acts 17.22-28

Introduction

- Knowledge and understanding change when we have an encounter with the real thing
- Areopagus a group of people who were interested in new ideas. Paul well prepared to speak to them

Paul proclaims the Unknown God

1. Starts with point of agreement

- Affirms religious nature of his audience
- Our points of agreement: concerns about climate, loneliness, mental health and economic inequality

2. Uses ideas and examples they were familiar with

- Begins with Creator God not Scriptures (ct sermons to Jewish audiences) and quotes well known poets
- Climate concern: Creator God and Eco Church

3. Shows them the 'Unknown god' can be known in and through Christ

- Moves from God as Creator to how Jesus makes God known and enables us to know God
- How knowing God makes a difference in issues of concern raised in Listening Project

Conclusion

How might we take the opportunities we have this week to make God known in what we say and do?

Some Questions for Discussion

1. What words would you use to describe God?
2. Read Acts 17.16-34 but focus on 17.22-28. What do you notice?
3. How does Jesus help us come to know God better?
4. When you look at our community, what might be starting points for conversations about faith?
5. Where could you start speaking about God in those conversations?
6. How might you move those conversations on to speak about Jesus and the difference knowing him makes?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through this passage? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know[b] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'

(John 14.6-7)

Why not spend some time thanking God that he invites us to know him through Jesus and ask him to show you how you might make him known in what you say and do?

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